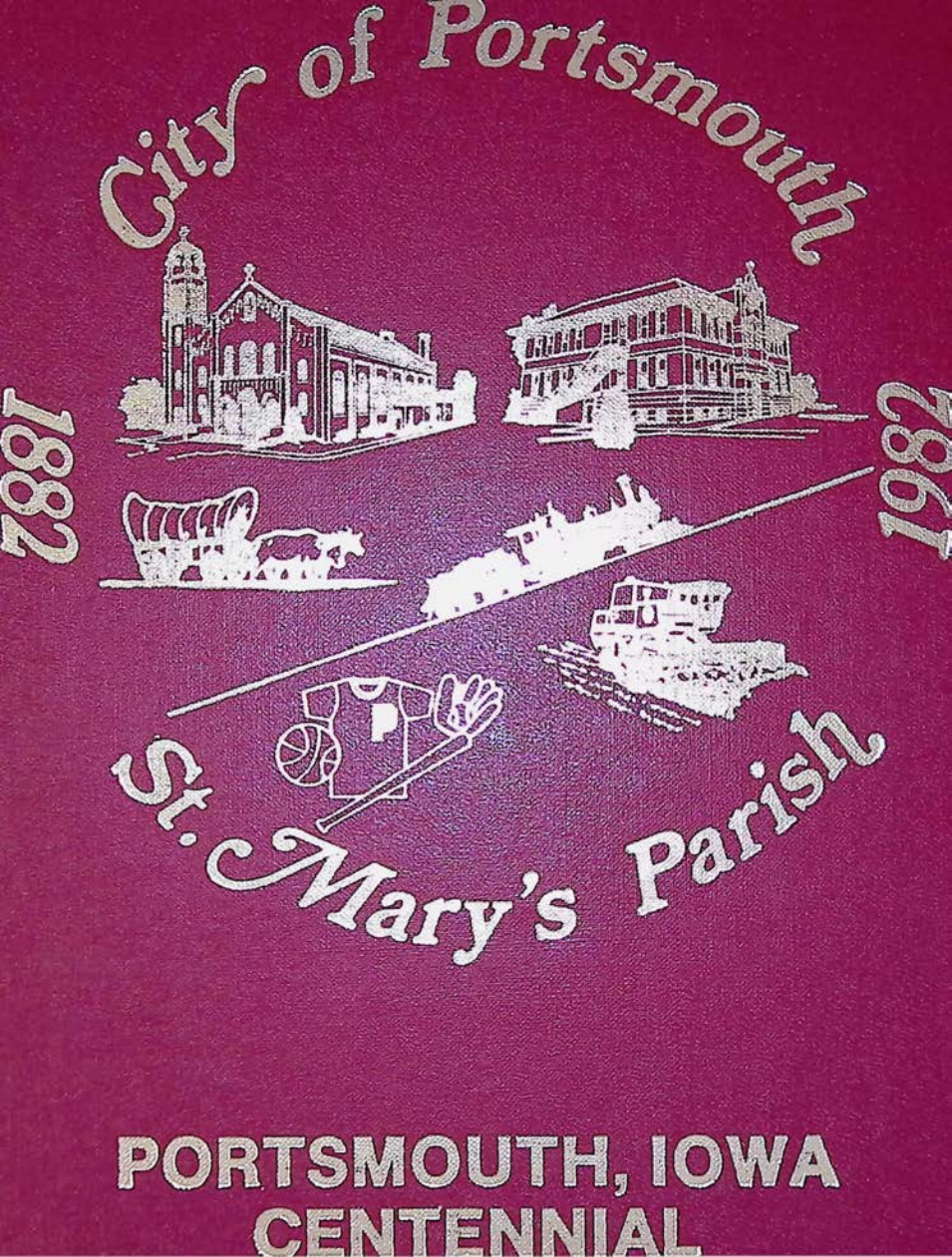

PORTSMOUTH, IOWA
CENTENNIAL

City of Portsmouth

1882

1982

St. Mary's Parish

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The history book committee wishes to thank all those who have provided articles, information, and pictures and assisted us in any way in compiling this book. Needless to say, we are not professional historians or writers and we realize that there will be inaccuracies and omissions. Please forgive us for these errors and it is our wish that you will enjoy reading the book.

DEDICATION

This history book is dedicated to all the pioneers and succeeding generations who have helped build and develop the town of Portsmouth, Iowa. A hundred years have now passed since the surveyors laid out the plat of the town along the new railroad running from Manilla to Council Bluffs, a branch of the Milwaukee, Chicago and St. Paul Railway. Our country was then 106 years old, our state 34 years old, and Shelby County 31 years old. Some residents of the town in 1982 are fifth and sixth generation members of families who migrated here from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Illinois, and eastern Iowa, as well as other states and foreign countries.

The history of the first 100 years cannot be described completely by statistics or improvements in areas of agriculture, business, transportation, and communication. Imprinted in the memories of the people are the triumphs of two World Wars, a disastrous drought and depression, followed quickly by a devastating tornado and hail storm. Throughout the joys and sorrows, their faith in their Creator and their country have guided them in the quest of a good life in an area blessed with fertile soil, abundant water, and freedom of spirit.

PORTSMOUTH, IOWA 100 YEARS OF GROWING 1882-1982

Portsmouth, Iowa was established in 1882.
A very proud moment for a chosen few.
Our ancestors were brave pioneers,
They smiled and laughed, yet shed many tears.
We'll long remember our friends who have parted,
After all, they're the ones who got us started.
For a hundred years we've worked the land;
Now by machine, but once by hand.
What once was prairie and open fields
Can now produce such wondrous yields.
God has enriched us day by day;
He's the One who taught us how to pray.
Our town has grown in so many ways,
To become "THE BIGGEST LITTLE TOWN IN THE U.S.A."

Poem written by Judy Kenkel, great, great granddaughter of Peter Korth, pioneer merchant.

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GENEALOGY RECORD

Family Register

Husband's Name

Wife's Name

Children's Names

Grandchildren's Names

Husband's Side

Wife's Side

Parents' Names

Grandparents

Father's Side

Mother's Side

Great Grandparents

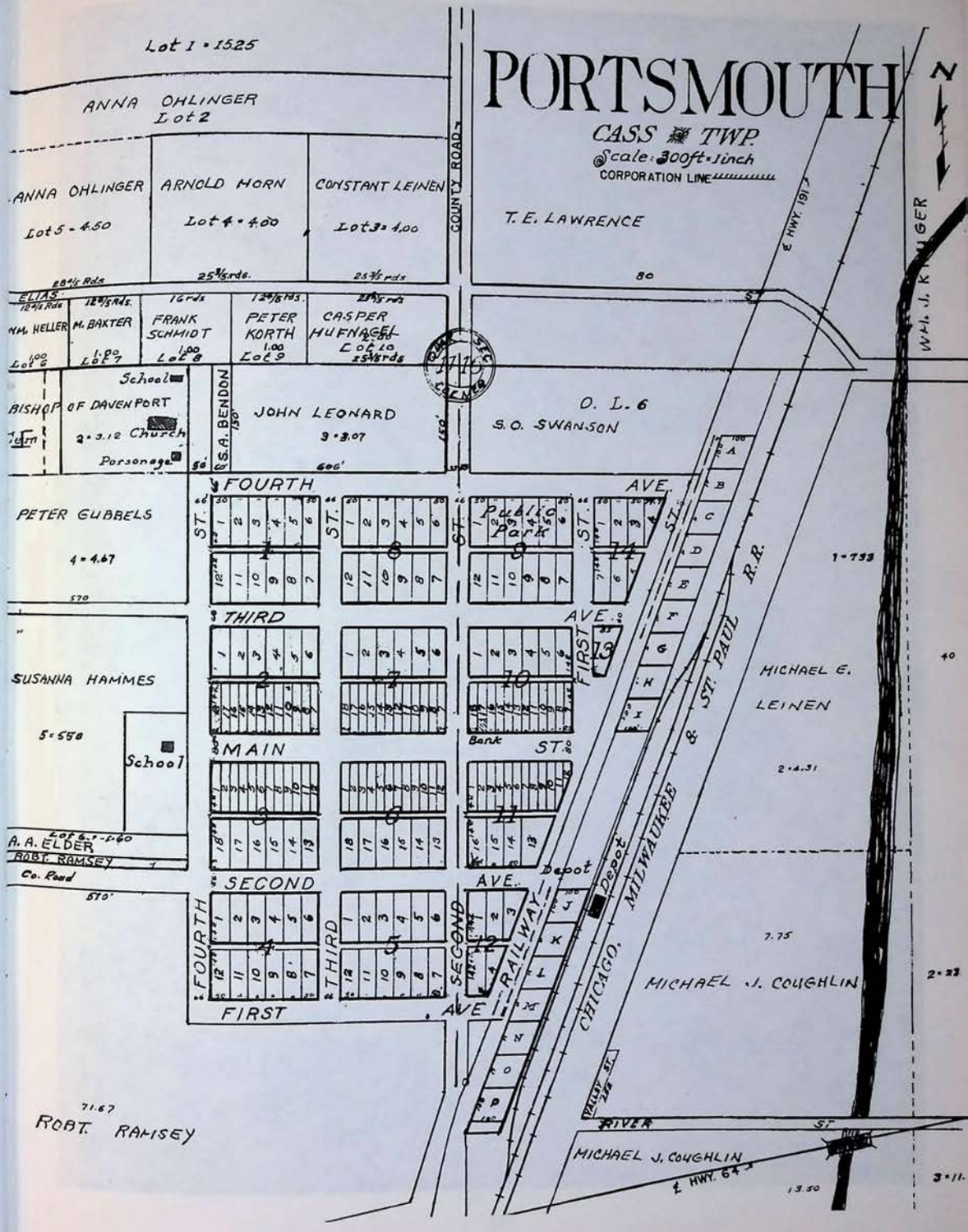
Father's Side

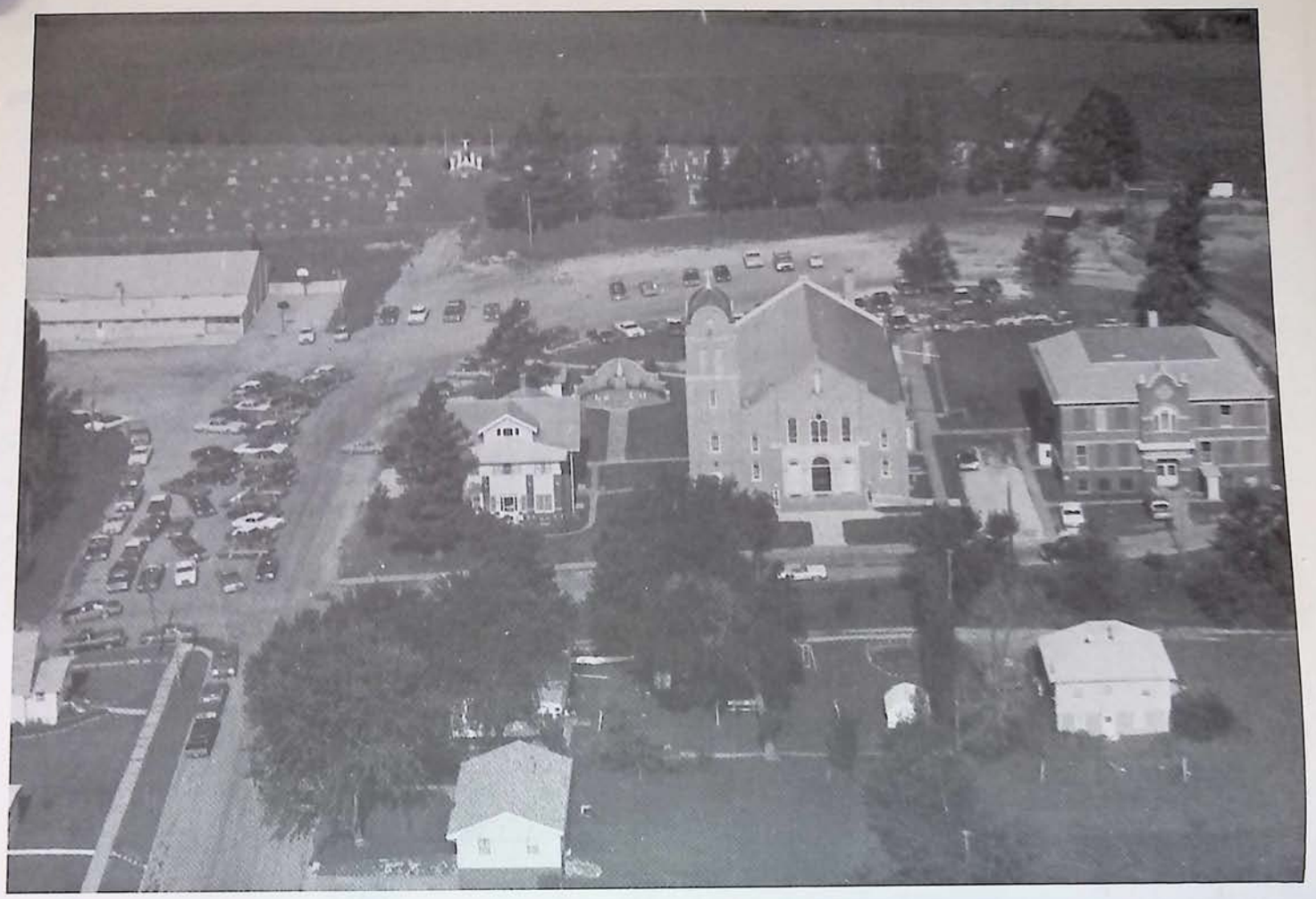
Mother's Side

Great Great Grandparents

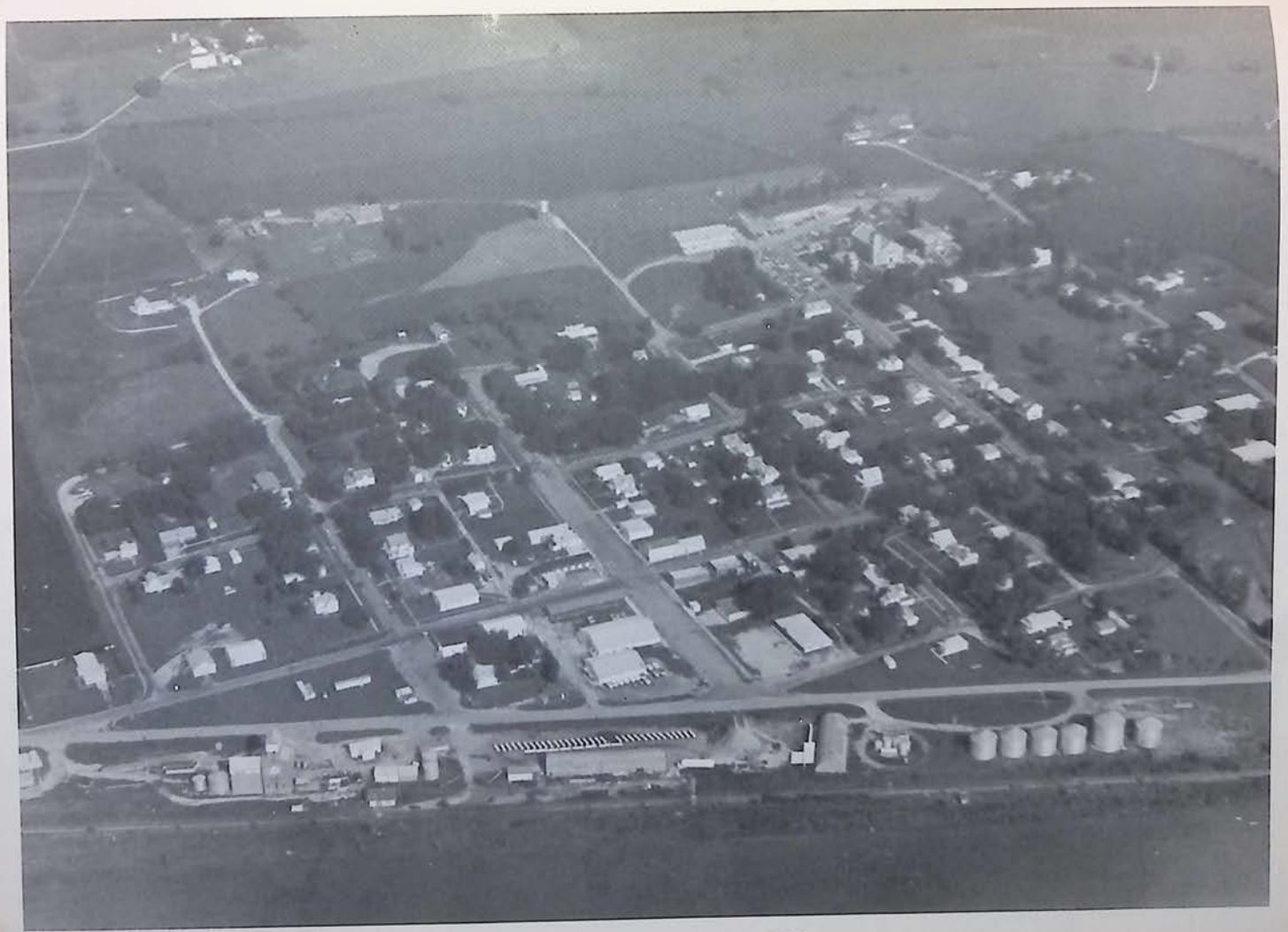
Father's Side

Mother's Side


PORTSMOUTH
CASS TWP.
Scale: 300ft. = 1inch
CORPORATION LINE
Lot 1 • 15.25
ANNA OHLINGER Lot 2
ANNA OHLINGER Lot 5 - 4.50
ARNOLD HORN Lot 4 • 4.00
CONSTANT LEINEN Lot 3 = 1.00
COUNTY ROAD
T. E. LAWRENCE
80
ELIAS
WM. HELLER
M. BAXTER
FRANK SCHMIDT
PETER KORTH
CASPER HUFNAGEL
BISHOP OF DAVENPORT
School
2 • 3.12 Church
Personage
G.S.A. BENDON
JOHN LEONARD
3 • 3.07
O. L. 6
S. O. SWANSON
PETER GUBBELS
4 • 4.67
570
FOURTH AVE.
THIRD AVE.
SECOND AVE.
FIRST AVE.
Public Park
SUSANNA HAMMES
5 • 5.58
School
MAIN ST.
Bank
Depot
A. A. ELDER
ROBT. RAMSEY
Co. Road
570'
71.67
ROBT. RAMSEY
CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL R.R.
RAILWAY
MICHAEL E. LEINEN
2 • 4.31
MICHAEL J. COUGHLIN
7.75
2 • 23
RIVER ST.
MICHAEL J. COUGHLIN
E HWY. 64
13.50
E HWY. 191
WM. J. KLINGER
1 • 733
40
3 • 11



Aerial View of St. Mary's Parish Facilities - 1981

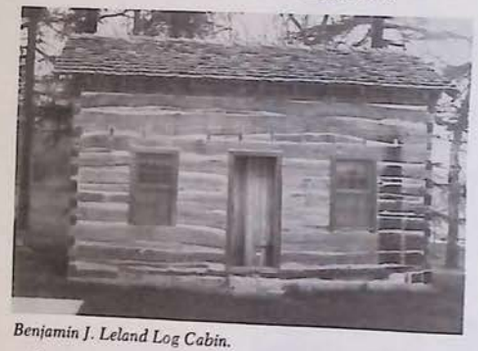


Aerial View of Portsmouth, Iowa - 1981

Introduction

Welcome to Portsmouth Sign.

The first settler in the Portsmouth, Iowa area was Benjamin J. Leland who in 1847, settled three miles southwest of Portsmouth in the area known as Leland's Grove. He built a one room log cabin on the S.W. 1/4 of the S.W. 1/4 of Sex. 31, 79-40 Cass Township, Shelby County, where Elven Steenbock's farmstead is located today. Following him several years later and settling in the Leland Grove area, starting from the original Benjamin Leland Settlement and running north up the Mosquito Valley to what is now Highway 44, were Lytle, Springer, Halliday, Leytham, Bell, Schackleton, Hall, Bullard, Copeland, Handy, Butler, Gollop, Shearer, Hewitt and Tutty families. In 1857 Benjamin Leland built a larger log cabin at the same site. This cabin has been preserved and in 1972 was moved to the Shelby County Historical Society grounds at Potter's Park in Harlan, Iowa. Richard Leytham built a log cabin in 1865 on the forty acres where he first settled, which was in the timber on the farm owned today by Arlene Stinn. This cabin stood until 1938 when it was torn down. The old histories say that if it had not been for the abundance of deer and elk in the vicinity during the winter of the deep snow of 1856-57, the families that were living here at that time certainly would have perished as the nearest place to buy anything was Kanesville (Council Bluffs), a distance of 30 miles. These early settlers sometimes went to Calhoun (near Missouri Valley) to mill, a distance of 25 miles, but usually went to Wick's mill near Council Bluffs.

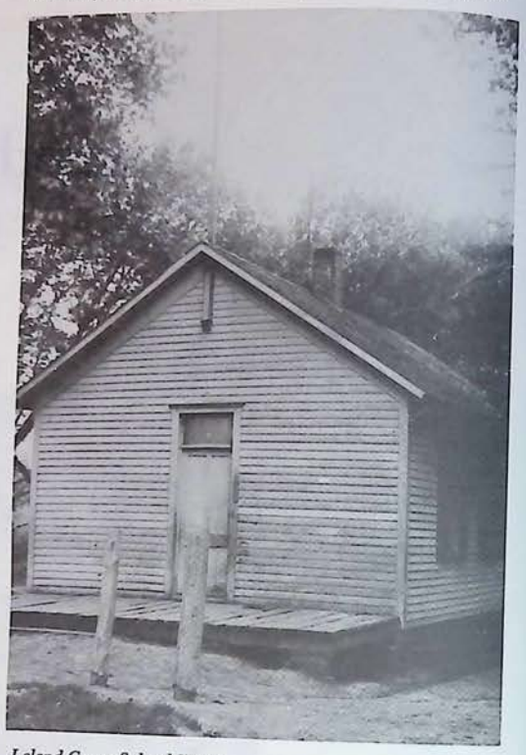


Benjamin J. Leland Log Cabin.

These men were obliged, while struggling to make a living, to institute county and township government, levy taxes, build school houses, work roads and construct bridges.

The pioneer families had to make their living in the locality where they erected their humble log cabins and homes. In spite of the fact that they had little of this world's goods, they were hospitable, and neighbor shared with neighbor what was left in time of need.

On January 7, 1869, on petition of eighteen area citizens, Cass Township was formed. It was named for the Michigan Statesman, Lewis Cass. Before this time all of the present Cass Township area belonged to Harlan and Carlton Townships. The first election was held at the Leland Grove School which was the first school house in Cass Township. It stood on the S.W. 1/4 of Sec. 31 - 79-40. B.V. Springer was the first school teacher. Henry Halliday was appointed organizing officer of the new township. First officers of Cass Township were: John J. Copeland -clerk; Henry Halliday, Richard Leytham, Jonathan Bullard - trustees; B.L. Leland, Joseph Seddon, and Henry Halliday -members of the county board of supervisors.



Leland Grove School House.

A large number of settlers came in 1875 and also a year or two later. Among the men who came at this time were John G. Clark, William F. Green, Mathias S., Constant, Mathias, John and Peter M. Leinen, Peter Korth, Joe and Peter Herkenrath, G.W. Alloway, George M. Williams, George and Alexander Sims, Robert Rockenbaugh, E.E. Hoover, G.W. Walmer and Theodore Sondag. These early settlers went to Shelby to sell grain and produce and to buy supplies.

Among other early settlers we recall the names of McAndrews, Nash, Coughlin, Carey, D. F. Paul, Leonard, Miller, Ohlinger, Bendon, Copeland, Waterman, Walker, Battey, Clark, Benson, Fogle, Quick, Williams, Hillyer, Lawrence, Reinig, Birks, Guinan, Bauer, Scroggin, Merten, Wiese, Neubauer, Whaley, Kramer, Heimerman, Oathout, Trierwieler, Mckeighan, Thomas, Green, Walmer, Stewart, Griese, Doner, Boardman, Evans, Kohl, Escher, Jacobs, Hein, Gubbels, Greiner, Gau, Plambeck, Case, Custer, Johansen, Shreves, Wehr, Pitsch, Grund, Hainley, Hammes, Cooper, Powers, Gibson, Hughes, Graybill, Fuhs, Frederick, Petersen, Martens, Hammerand, Dahlheimer, Wulf, Voge, Gaymen, Baxter, Dreier, Albertus, Dohrman, Monahan, Pfeiffer, Daeges, Elder, Peterson, Turner, Slaven, Schumacher, Ramsey, Stein, Heller, Huebner, Kruger, Lefeber, Schmidt, Pauley, Rother, Schoemann and Springman.

During the 1860's William Williams lived in a log cabin built on part of the land which is now the site of Portsmouth.

The town of Portsmouth, Iowa, began its existence with the coming of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway. It is situated in the west-central part of Cass Township and affords a trading point for a wide area. On August 8, 1882, the Milwaukee Land Company platted a portion of sections 16 and 17 in township 79, range 40 to be known as Portsmouth. Research has never been able to discover the choice of the name for a new town, obviously never to be used as a port.

The east and west streets of the new town were designated as First Avenue, Second Avenue, Main Street, Third Avenue, Fourth Avenue beginning at the south edge of town and proceeding north. The north and south streets were to be known as First, Second, Third, and Fourth Streets, proceeding from the east boundary to the west section of the platted area.

A year after the platting, the town was incorporated. A council was organized in May of 1883. The first Mayor was A.W. Sims; Councilmen were J.C. Pfeifer, Charles Matson, George Battey, O.C. Betterman, P.J. Korth and J.L. Birks.

The altitude of Portsmouth is 1200 feet above sea level.

The early residents wasted no time in building homes. There is a record of a house constructed by Peter Korth shortly after the town was platted in 1882. The population, first recorded in 1885 just three years after the platting, numbered 150. This number increased to 347 in 1910 which is the greatest number counted in the official census taken every ten years. In the years between 1960 and 1980, the population has varied only from 232 to the present 240.

In the following chapters we will attempt to relate the development of Portsmouth from the standpoint of businesses, churches, schools, organizations, and basically families, which have formed the bulwark of the small but progressive and stable community it is today, as we mark our Centennial year.

In conjunction with the town Centennial, St. Mary's Catholic Church of Portsmouth, Iowa, also marks its hundredth anniversary.

Old Peter Korth house now owned by Loretta Blum. (1982)

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Korth at their home Mid 1880's.

Railroads, Roads and Highways

Depot - Portsmouth, Iowa

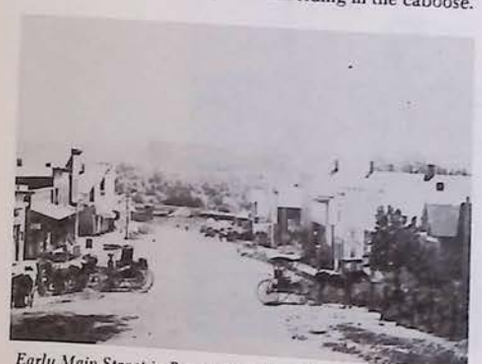
Highway at south edge of Portsmouth.

In the year 1882 the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad Company, as it was known at that time, was constructed between Marion and Council Bluffs through Portsmouth. It is assumed that passenger and freight train service began immediately after construction. The earliest time-table in the railroad archives in Chicago is for the year 1886. That year there were two trains in each direction between Chicago and Council Bluffs both carrying sleeping and dining cars. These trains made all stops for the entire distance, and required 20 to 24 hours to travel between Chicago and Council Bluffs. Steam engines carried people, livestock, grain supplies, mail, and many other items.

Portsmouth Depot and Train

In the early years, the stockyards were used to ship livestock to Omaha and Chicago quite extensively. The common scene was to see neighboring farmers help drive the cattle to be sold to the holding pens at Portsmouth. When the expected freight train arrived the cattle were loaded into the cattle cars.

The farmer who was going to sell hogs would notify Mr. Fred Schwery who would in turn contact the depot agent to expect a load of hogs. Caravans of wagons and horses manned by neighbors would help the farmer transport his hogs, eight or ten to a wagon, to the stockyards in Portsmouth where they were loaded into cars. The livestock owner would accompany the train riding in the caboose.



Early Main Street in Portsmouth Stock Yards at the end of the street

Sometimes a child's pet goat would inadvertently be loaded along with a load of hogs. The town of Portsmouth did not have a zoning ordinance forbidding animals to roam the streets at will, and if a pet goat would stray into the stockyards, the men would load it unintentionally.

Livestock for feeding were also shipped into Portsmouth for farmers in the surrounding territory. Thirty-two carloads of feeder cattle under one consignment was the largest number of cattle ever shipped into Portsmouth. One of the largest consignments of feeder lambs was a thousand head and they were driven to the farmer's feedlot. With the coming of the motorized truck and modern highways it was simpler to send livestock to market this way. Eventually the stockyards were completely discontinued for use of incoming or outgoing livestock and about the year 1957 they were torn down. The last trainload of feeder cattle coming into Portsmouth was in 1972 and were loaded directly onto waiting trucks.

In 1901 there continued to be two trains in each direction, both of them stopping at Portsmouth. One of which required only 14 hours, carrying sleeping and dining cars. The other train, a local, required 17 hours and operated during daytime hours eastbound.

Gandy Crew

In 1916 service to Portsmouth was provided by the Colorado Special which made stops between Chicago and Omaha and continued via Union Pacific to Denver. There were both passenger and freight steam trains. The Hiawatha passenger train was known as the "through" train and stopped every 150 miles on its journey from Omaha to Chicago. A passenger could catch the train at Omaha or Manilla. The "local" train, which was jokingly called the "dinky" train, went from Manilla to Omaha in the morning and from Omaha to Manilla in the evening and stopped at every town to pick up passengers. The train consisted of one or two coaches. The Hiawatha made its final trip in April 1956. The Arrow also went through Portsmouth and except for its last few years did stop in Portsmouth. The "through local" ran between Omaha and Chicago, and the passenger could have it stop at Portsmouth only if he had the depot agent let Omaha or Manilla agents know of his intentions. The diesel engine came upon the scene in the early fifties. The Union Pacific started sending their passenger trains over the Milwaukee Road in the fifties. At one time there were 18 passenger trains when the Union Pacific used the tracks. For a while the Milwaukee "through local" still provided passenger trains but was later disbanded in the sixties. The last time folder indicating passenger service to Portsmouth was that of September 1962.

Because the ninety pound rails were beginning to wear out and the angle bars were beginning to break, the railroad had new one hundred twelve pound rails put in place. After the powerful diesel engines began pulling the freight trains, some of the trains were one hundred cars in length.

Replacing Ties in Portsmouth Yard.

The depot agents and the operators were very important to the operation of the railroad. In 1924 there was one agent and two operators stationed in Portsmouth providing continuous service twenty-four hours a day. By the early thirties there was only one agent in Portsmouth, and he lived with his family in the upstairs dwelling of the depot. After 1955 the depot agents were not allowed to live in the upstairs dwelling. The railroad remodeled the building into a one story depot. Francis Zeiser, the depot agent who had lived in the upstairs dwelling, wanted to move a piano into the residence. The piano was hoisted onto the top of a grain car, and while in that position, Mr. Joe Reinig who worked on the Section Crew played the piano. Then the piano was slid through the second story window of the depot into the Zeiser's living room. Some of the depot agents that served the town of Portsmouth throughout the years were Pat Curran, Corbert, H.C. Gustalfson, Henry Peterson, Bill Uptegrove, Francis Zeiser, Cliff Klein, and Darrell Shy.

Section crews maintained the road bed and were located in each town. They used a hand pumped car to service the right of way until the motorized section car began service in 1925. The section crew then had longer portions of track to maintain. In 1936 the crew shoveled snow every day for six weeks in below zero weather because the right-of-way blew shut due to all the snow and wind. The winter of 1975, in January and February, was about the worst year since 1936 as far as trains getting stuck in the drifts. Service to Portsmouth was curtailed for twenty-four hours on January 10 because of the drifts, and the trains getting stuck around Earling. An engine was even derailed in the process. Ten to twenty below zero weather with terribly strong winds made the work of digging out very difficult.

Railroad Section Crew - 1940.
Veral Smith, Clair Galiher, Ambrose Wehr, Jim McAndrews, and Leonard Butterbaugh.

Railroad Section Foreman House.

The worst train wreck in the Portsmouth area was on Dohrman's curve south of Portsmouth. A passenger train derailed and the engineer was killed. This train wreck occurred in the year 1923. In June, 1947, a freight train derailed on the north edge of town spilling corn and derailing other cars. Mr. Clair Galiher, section boss from 1924-1960, tells about a cow being on the track, and the train speeded up to keep from wrecking and at the last minute the cow jumped off the track. He served as section boss for 36 years, until his retirement, and never had an accident on the tracks. Mr. Chris Drier Sr. worked on the Milwaukee Railroad in the early years of its existence. Section men in 1924 were Lee Clark, Art Fields, Tom Turner, and John Frederick. Other men working on the section in later years were Amy Wehr, George McKeighan, Frank Gessert, Joe Reinig, Ray Van Slyke, Carl, Ivo, and Rich Wilwerding. Al Vonnahme also worked on the Milwaukee Road out of Portsmouth as the Signal Maintainer until the railroad tracks were no longer in use.

Train Wreck by Section House June 1947. Pictured are Pete Jurschak, Judy Jurschak and Tony Herkenrath.

In June 1975, in observance of the Bicentennial, the engine on the train was painted red, white, and blue.

On February 20, 1980, due to financial difficulties, the last train passed through Portsmouth, and the tracks were abandoned. It is hoped the train whistle will be heard again by the Portsmouth community in the near future.

Depot and Railroad Tracks - 1981

Roads And Highways

In the early days the mode of travel was on foot, by horseback, horse and buggy or team and wagon, and in winter by bobsled. The first roads and trails were hacked out of the wilderness usually by hand labor. There were no bridges and the streams and creeks were forded at the best crossing. Most leveling of the road or trail was done by pulling a log or crude wood float over the roadbed. Most early roads looked like an obstacle course compared to the roads we have today. The first road equipment was purchased April 30, 1870 when the township trustees agreed to buy a breaking plow with a standing cutter, and a scraper with chains and clevises. They also decided that each township resident would have the privilege of working out his personal, land and road tax on the roads at the call of the road supervisor. The pay for this work was 1.50 per day, per man for a ten hour day, and 3.00 per day for a man and team of horses or mules. From the start of Cass Township in 1870 until 1932, the township trustees bought and owned the road equipment and hired a man in each district of the township, who furnished the horses or power to pull the grader or scraper, to drag and maintain the roads. The township started with one district in 1870 and by 1900 enlarged to nine districts.

In 1870, David Hall and Benjamin Leland were the first road supervisors.

In 1874, the road supervisors were authorized to put up guide boards (road signs) wherever needed.

In 1875, the services of the county surveyor were obtained to survey new roads wherever needed. The trustees also agreed to hire carpenters at regular wages (10 hour day) to build bridges.

The crude roads and trails of the early days served the purpose for the horse and buggy and wagons, but with the coming of the automobile in the years after 1900, better roads and bridges were needed and many roads were graded and straightened, and more bridges built. About this time an overall foreman for roads and bridges was appointed for Cass Township. P.J. Ohlinger held this position from 1915 until 1932. Some of the road draggers from 1926 to 1930 were: Henry Slaven, M.D. Leinen, Peter M. Leinen, Emery Green, Ralph Green, M.P. Sondag, C.A. Leinen, Andy Petersen, W.S. Evans, Scott Evans, Joe Leinen, F.M. Smith, Jr., and Peter Jurschak, Sr. During the years the poll tax was in effect the men could work out this tax on the roads at the rate of two days work for a man and one day of work for a man with a team of horses.

In the fall, snow fence was put up along the roads in the places where the snow drifted the worst. As there was no power equipment to clear the roads after a bad snowstorm, the roads had to be shoveled by hand and sometimes a farmer could be snowbound for a long period of time. Usually they would drive through the fields to get to town, many times cutting fences to get through.

In the 1930's with the coming of power equipment, the county eventually took over the maintenance of all the roads. The roads were nearly all dirt until years later when the farm to market road system came into being. Nearly all the roads in Cass Township were graded or regraded between 1946 and 1948 during John Wendt's second term as Shelby County Supervisor. Some roads were gravelled or rocked at this time and several years later all the roads were oiled. At the present time with the high price of oil, many of the roads are being covered with crushed rock.

The old road to Harlan started at the northeast edge of Portsmouth and crossed the Mosquito Creek where the farms of Leo Monahan and M.T. Leinen join, then ran east

Old Stage Coach road West of Portsmouth

paralleling present highway 44 about one mile north. The old timers still call this the north road to Harlan. When this bridge over the Mosquito Creek was abandoned a foot bridge or swinging bridge was put in and used for many years. There was also a foot bridge two miles south of Portsmouth crossing the Mosquito Creek and leading to the Leland Grove School.

Highways 44 and 191 intersect Portsmouth and Cass Township. Highway 44 from Highway 30 to Harlan became a primary highway as a result of the primary road act of 1919, and was designated Highway 39. The road was graded and straightened in 1922, with the use of a large dirt excavator pulled with twenty horses. The dirt was loaded from the excavator onto wooden dump wagons each pulled by three mules.

From 1919 until 1928, P.J. Ohlinger did all of the maintenance work on this highway from the Harrison County line to the Cass - Lincoln Township line (6 1/2 miles). He was paid 80¢ per round trip mile for dragging the highway with four horses on a Bolton road grader. On April 1, 1928, the first motorized road patrol in the area took over the maintenance of the Highway.

P.J. Ohlinger Dragging Hwy. 39 - 1927.

A gravel surface was added to the road in 1930, route 39 was paved with cement in 1939. The route designation was changed to Iowa 64 in 1960 and to the present Highway No. 44 in 1969.

The first route used to haul livestock to Omaha went west from Portsmouth to the county line then south past the Joe S. Reinig farm and paralleling the railroad tracks at right angles through the hills all the way to the city.

Paving Hwy. 39 East of Portsmouth.

Otha Bendon and P.J. Ohlinger doing road work on Hwy. 191-1927.

In 1927 Highway 191 was surveyed and graded. The route of this road closely followed the Milwaukee Railroad tracks and the Mosquito Creek. As this was nearly all low land and swampland, a combination of caterpillar tractors and graders, and horses pulling plows and scrapers were used to build this road. M.D. Leinen used four horses to roll the first furrow, starting at the south edge of Portsmouth and proceeding in a southerly direction to Persia. Fred Anderson ran the caterpillar tractor and Fred Ingwers the grader. After it was graded the roadbed was very soft and after a rain cars would mire down in the mud and have to be pulled out with horses by a neighboring farmer. Nevertheless the roadbed was level and a straight route between the towns. It was several years before Highway 191 went north from Portsmouth to Panama. For the first four years the road was a township road maintained by farmers. In the early thirties it became a county road and was gravelled in 1934, then blacktopped later. The highway was regraded in 1954 and paved in 1955 between Portsmouth and Persia.

Caterpillar Tractor and Road Grader - 1927

Building Hwy. 191 through Portsmouth

In 1957 the highway from Portsmouth to Panama was paved. The use of the local roads and highways by industry, agriculture, commuters, and travelers has become a way of life for the people in the area.

The Portsmouth Centennial has not been without problems. Rich Leinen, mayor of Portsmouth, received a letter from the Iowa Dept. of Transportation ordering removal of the "Welcome to Portsmouth" centennial sign, claiming it was on the right of way of Highway 191. Members of the community, numbering 320, signed a petition objecting to the removal of the sign. Copies were sent to U.S. Rep. Tom Harkin, Governor Ray, and State Representative Danker and the Dept. of Transportation stating the sign was legal. A member of the Dept. of Transportation came to a Portsmouth town meeting and said the sign could remain as it was 'only inches' on State ground, and the matter dropped, making the people of Portsmouth the winners of the dispute.

Mayor Richard Leinen and wife Alma.

Did You Know?

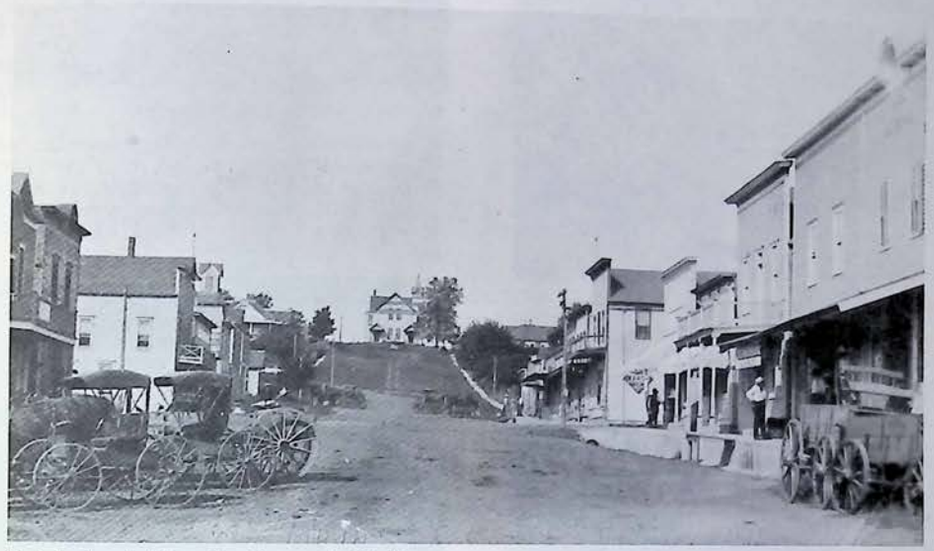
From 1920 until about 1944, nearly all of the railroad right of way was grown up solid with hemp.

Before 1938 there were no graves south of the crucifixion group in St. Mary's cemetery. At that time this area was the playground for the high school boys.

Did you know that the Portsmouth Telephone Office was once located in a building that still sits on Odelia Schmidt's property?

Residences in Portsmouth around 1900.

Former Businesses



Early business buildings along Portsmouth Main Street.

View up Main Street - 1930's.

View down Main Street in the 1930's.
Note cars parked in center of the street.

Soon after the Milwaukee Railroad laid their tracks down through the Mosquito Creek valley the town of Portsmouth was platted and began to take shape on the hillside west of the tracks. The main streets were soon lined with stores and businesses as the enterprising pioneer merchants and tradesmen put their skills and energy into developing the thriving new community.

Looking down Main Street - Early Portsmouth.

The first store was built by P.J. Korth. It was a general merchandise and grocery store, and Mr. Korth sold the first goods in Portsmouth in Sept. 1882. He later sold the store to the firm of Burton and Helwig who built a new store also in 1882. This building still stands today and is the location of the Rocket Bar. In 1889 Burton and Helwig sold to Peter Herkenrath and Henry Dohrmann. In 1906 Peter bought Henry's interest and took his son John as a partner.

First General Merchandise Store in Portsmouth was located on the corner where the Bank now stands.

In 1912 Peter took another son, Anthony (Pal) into the business and the store was known as P. Herkenrath & Sons. Peter died in 1915 and John and Pal continued to operate the business under the same name until 1942 when they closed out the merchandise and sold the building to A.C. Ohlinger. He had a cafe and tavern in the building until 1946 when he sold both the business and the building to Phil Herkenrath (John's son). Phil operated the business under the name of Phil's Cafe until Ronald Reinig purchased it and moved his business, The Rocket Bar, into the building. Thus the original building survives, though no longer a grocery store. Other former grocery and general merchandise store operators through the years were Bill

Peter Herkenrath and Sons General Store - 1906

Hall, O'Connor & Doyle, Dick Mester, George Andersen, John Jipson, Alfred (Chick) Ohlinger, Leonard Burns, Jim White, Nick Schechinger Jr., Walt Reisz, Cecil Monahan, Dwayne & Opal LaSourd, and the present day store,the Town Cupboard, owned and operated by Frank and Judy Funk.

Peter Herkenrath and Henry Dohrman General Store - 1889

"Pal" and John Herkenrath General Store.

The town's first meat market and slaughter house was owned by Matt Petersen who began business in 1883. He was in business for a number of years and later W.R. Parish took over the trade. He was succeeded by Nick Wehr, Pete Wehr and Pete Stinn. In 1936 Ray Van Slyke bought the meat market from Pete Stinn and ran a meat market and grocery store until 1946 when he built an addition to

the building and installed the first locker service in Portsmouth. Since home freezers were still in the future for most people, this locker service gave farmers and townspeople an opportunity to freeze and store their meats and other foods which previously had to be canned or preserved by other methods. This was certainly a step forward for the town. Ray continued until 1972 when he sold to Gary Wilke who in turn maintained a good business until Oct. 1978 when he sold the locker to Terry and Glenn Carstens who are the current owners.

Pearl and Pete Wehr in the Nick Wehr Meat Market.

From the time the town originated it has never been without a hardware store. O.C. Betterman started the first hardware store in the fall of 1882. He carried a full line of hardware, tools, stoves and other durable items. He sold his prosperous business in 1887 to Jacob Korth. Mr. Korth was in the hardware trade until he sold the store to C.C. Cooper. In 1907 F.W. Hainley purchased the business from Cooper and ran the store until 1922 when he sold to Carl Arnold. Mr. Arnold stayed only a short time before selling to Fred Greiner and Charles Gallagher. Later Greiner sold his interest to A.C. Ohlinger. Later Gallagher bought Ohlinger's interest and operated the business alone for some time before selling to Ed Rosenthal Jr. In 1954 Paul Leinen Sr. purchased the business and continues to run the hardware business today. He has greatly expanded into other merchandise and services necessary to a farming community.

F.W. Hainley Hardware Store. F.W. Hainley and Bertha Hainley Slaven behind counter.

The healing art of medicine was practiced by several qualified physicians and surgeons who served the people of the area. Among the earliest to practice in the township were Drs. Noon, Leland, Sanders and Delehant.

R.A. Mester General Merchandise Store

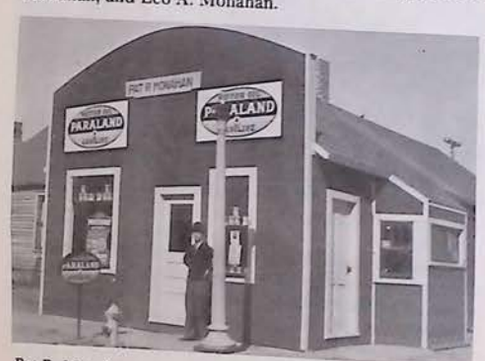
Townspeople remember Carl Teske M.D. who came to Portsmouth in 1884. Others who came later were Drs. E.C. Weir, Charles Grace, James McGowan and Dr. Grady who was the last physician to have a practice in Portsmouth.

Ambrose Wehr and Dr. Weir - 1917.

Drugs and medical supplies were available from the earliest days at the drug stores. Among the pioneer druggists were Kuhl & Dohrman, A.O. Mudge and Charles Dohrman. As the years passed other men came to take their places as pharmacists. Harry Scarr is still remembered, as are Hubert Von Tersch, and Bill and Bert Noll. The last drug store owned and operated by Huey Curran closed in 1939.

Harry Scarr - Early Portsmouth Druggist

As more pioneer settlers came to Cass Township to break the fertile prairie soil and make their homes on the farms the need for farm implements created the opportunity for another business. George Battey started the first farm implement business in Portsmouth in 1882. He later sold to Korth and Wehr. Sims Brothers next engaged in this line of business. Still later this firm was known as Sims and Houghton. The Hammerand Bros., Bill and John, started selling implements and as time went on other men entered the trade. Among them were C.A. Monahan, Hans Sondag, John Heller, Mike Daeges, Pat R. Monahan, and Leo A. Monahan.



Pat R. Monahan

Portsmouth was also fortunate enough to have hotels in the earlier years. They provided lodging for travelers and some local residents, and featured dining room facilities.

Bishop Hotel Dining Room.

J.A. Korth managed the first hotel, called 'Portsmouth House' in 1882. He was followed by James Murtaugh, T.M. Bishop, Claud Cooper, Jim Benning and Steers & Dougall. Rooming houses were run by Bill Benning and Wilfred Burns. The last to close was Wilfred Burns' sometime in the forties. Some of the steady boarders at the Burns rooming house were James and Tony McAndrews, Mike Carey, and George Hein.

Wilfred Burns in the City Hotel.

Pioneer businesses that have disappeared from the scene are the blacksmith shops, harness shops, livery barn and dray lines. The blacksmith shops flourished when the men who worked with forge and anvil were busy repairing farm machinery and shoeing horses. The first blacksmith to wield his hammer in Portsmouth was Charles Miller who later sold to Charles Peck who in turn sold to Max Stoltz. John Hammerand opened another shop in 1887 as the amount of business had become too much for one place to handle. John was joined by his brother Bill and the shop was known as Hammerand Bros. Other blacksmiths who plied their trade in Portsmouth were Nick Jacobs, A.A. Elder, John Parkinson and Ira Bendon. Ira was the last smithy to fire a forge in Portsmouth.

The harness shops were busy places when horses provided the power to till the soil and pull the wagons and buggies. The first harness maker was George Lafflin who began as soon as the town was founded. He sold to the Hammes Bros., who in 1886 sold to L.F. Kellog & Co. Matt Herkenrath was next, followed by Dey Weygint & Leo Ohlinger. The storm in 1940 destroyed the harness shop that Leo was operating and that was the last of the harness shops and the end of what had been a vital business.

Dey Weygint and Matt Herkenrath in the Harness Shop.

George McKeighan and Ray Thielen continued to repair leather and canvas in shops at their homes. Ray was the last as he continued with the work until his death in 1972.

The livery stable provided lodging for horses and rental services for horse and buggy. The livery stable was built in 1882 by J.F. Adams, who sold to John Leinen, who then sold to Mike Hammes in 1888. Hammes maintained a large number of good driving horses and fine carriages and built up an extensive business through the years. Other men who engaged in the livery barn business and provided dray service were Frank Hammes, Josiah Williams, A.C. Walker, P.M. Leinen and Paul Nowatzke.

P.M. Leinen Livery Barn and Drey wagon.

John Wehr was the last to provide dray service in Portsmouth and he retired from it in the late forties. The dray lines were used to haul freight from the depot and other businesses. They also hauled coal when it was used extensively for heating.

The railroad provided an efficient way of shipping livestock and grain to market. Early day farmers were large feeders of cattle and hogs and when they were ready to ship livestock by rail they drove the herds to town and placed them in the stockyards by the tracks to await shipment. The cattle cars on the trains were easily loaded by driving the livestock up the wooden chutes and into the

Bill and John Hammerand.

cars. In conjunction with the stockyards and shipment of livestock by rail, livestock buyers formed the Portsmouth Livestock Shipping Association in 1925. Before and after that date the livestock buyers remembered are Alva Hall, Pete Stinn, Fred Schwery, Archie Tarkington, and Wesley Stamp.

Because of the large amount of grain to be shipped from Cass township an elevator was built in 1882 and George Battey was the grain dealer. The elevator was destroyed by fire in 1887 and rebuilt. A 12 horse steam powered sheller was installed which had a capacity of 8000 bushels of shelled grain per day. Mr. Battey did an annual business of 300 cars of grain shipped. Later Sims and Houghton were grain dealers, followed by Bill Thomas. When the Des Moines Elevator Co. purchased the elevator G.S. Bendon became manager. Then Cargill bought it and Floyd Peterson was manager followed by Bob Cairney in 1949. Ed Bowles bought out Cargill in 1952. Bob Bowles bought it from Ed in 1958. Still later Leonard Rau and Phil Gau became owners and the elevator became known as G & R Feed and Grain Co. Inc. as it is known today. Leonard Rau bought Phil Gau out and is now the current owner.

Des Moines Elevator Co.

Men whose skills were much in demand in the burgeoning town were the carpenters. As the need for more business places, stores and homes grew, so did the number of men who used hammer and saw to build the town. Some of these first buildings and homes still stand sturdy today: a tribute to their skill and craftmanship. Among the first carpenters were Simon Bendon, Albertus & Walters, and Mike Gallagher. Following the trade from

the first days on through the years until the present day were these men some of whom are still active carpenters; J.W. Gau, Frank Dessman, John Pfeifer, Roy Spicklemier, M.A. Ohlinger, Henry Baxter, Joseph Clark, Joe Schumacher, Matt Olig, Kearney Elder, Chrysant Gau, A.P. Gau, Chris Gau, Mike Schmidt, Bill Thomas, Dick Gau, Bert Leinen, Leo Ohlinger, Tom Grote, Louis Leinen, Charles Hayes, Lawrence Weihs, Darwin Potter.

John Pfeiffer, Mike Gallagher and Bill Brightman building the Joe Ohlinger house-1917. Now the Emma Lefeber home.

Along with the carpenters engaged in the building trade were the masons. The men most remembered were Frank Schmidt, Wm. Merriman, and Fred Michels, who used their trowels to build the walls and smooth the cement in earlier days in Portsmouth.

Portsmouth has always had the privilege of having a restaurant in town. The first restaurant was owned by Claude Nowell. Others who have served fine meals in the community are James Dahlheimer, A.C. Ohlinger, Willard Schechinger, Helen Davis, Ceil Zimmerman, Elaine Wendt and Louis Leinen.

Club 191 is currently doing a fine business both as a restaurant serving breakfast and lunch during the day and as a night club serving excellent dinners in the evening. Jerry & Rita Christensen are the owners of this attractive business.

Taverns and pool halls were among the early businesses in Portsmouth. Gil Whaley was one of the first owners of a pool hall. He also introduced bowling along with the pool hall. Other pool hall operators were F.A. Tracy, Emil Ebert, Krieger Metz, and Benny Walsch.

Whaley Pool Hall and Bowling Alley.
Gil Whaley and Children-Jennie and Lonnie.

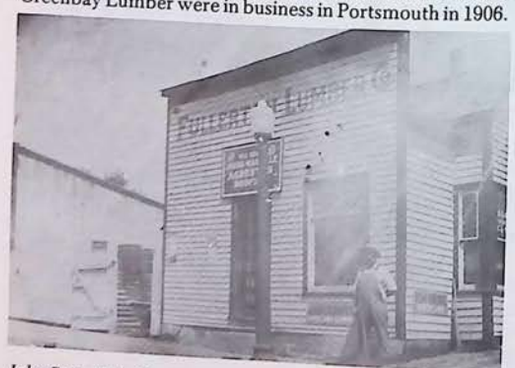
Bob Cairney and George McKeighan in Bowles Elevator - 1954

Tavern owners were A.C. (Ike) Ohlinger, Archie Tarkington, Pat White, Wesley Stamp, John Miller, Nick Schechinger Jr., Phil Herkenrath, and Ron Reinig, present owner of the Rocket Bar.

Phil Herkenrath-owner of Phils Bar and Cafe

The first barber shop in Portsmouth opened for business in 1884. William Strauss was the barber. The tonsorial service has been offered since then by the following men; J.E. Ohlinger, Hubert Stinn, Walt Wehr, Joe Stein, Frank Zeiser, Pearle Chandlee, and is still a part time business for present day owner Gary Kohles.

Lumber was first sold by Henry Dohrmann and he was succeeded by Korth and Wehr. Farmers Lumber Co. and Greenbay Lumber were in business in Portsmouth in 1906.



John Rosenthal, Manager of Fullerton Lumber Co.

Later Fullerton Lumber Co. built a large lumber yard and John Rosenthal was manager.He was followed by Harry Harris as manager; and still later Harold Arnoldy managed the yard until it closed in the early fifties.

Milking cows and cream separating were vital to the financial existence of most area farmers until the middle part of the century. To accommodate the cream and egg business of the local farmers the Manning Creamery Co. maintained a cream station which was managed by Peter Frederick and later by Jim White. The earliest creamery in Portsmouth was started in 1898 by Martin Ankerenstjerne. He not only bought cream but manufactured his own ice cream and churned butter. The ice cream was sold at the local drug store and ice cream parlor. Ice made in the winter and stored in an ice house was used to keep the ice cream at the proper temperature; though he used electric power from his own generator to freeze the ice cream. The churns were also powered electrically. A by-product of the creamery was buttermilk which was much sought after by local farmers to be used for feeding their pigs. Mr. Ankerenstjerne later moved to Harlan and set up a cold storage business.

Carl Williams on his Cream Route

Door to door delivery of milk was provided early in the century by several individuals. Mrs. Susan Hammes sold milk and cream to a number of families. Fred Schwery, John Wehr and Nick Schechinger Sr. had milk routes in town. The descendents of Mr. Schwery have a state milk dealers license dated July 1927, granting him permission to deliver milk and cream in the city of Portsmouth. So licensing is not new in our present day society. However, there has been a change in the type of containers used for the milk and cream. Tin buckets were replaced by glass bottles and eventually by plastic or paper containers as now used by the commercial dairies.

When the automobile came on the scene, new businesses sprang up. Automobile dealers who opened their doors were Matt Ohlinger, Jake Daeges and Leo Monahan. With the car came the need for auto repair, welding and garages. G.S. Bendon and Jake Daeges were among the first auto mechanics. Others who followed in the auto repair and welding business were Matt Ohlinger, Leo Monahan, Joe Hermrick, Louis Raymond, Marty Behrendt, Isadore Wilwerding, Harry McAndrews, Gene Pursell, Vern Lasher, Al Patten, John Raymond & Vernon Herkenrath.

The automobile also created an opportunity to sell another product on a much wider scale. Gasoline was now

J.W. Daeges Car Dealer

in demand, as it would continue to be in ever increasing amounts. The first gasoline was sold at the Hainley Hardware store. It was shipped in by railroad in 50 gallon barrels. The Herkenrath store had the first gas pump in town. It was located on the east side of the store next to the street. Matt Ohlinger was the first man to sell gasoline from a service station. Others quickly followed. Some of the first were Jake Daeges and Leo Monahan. Later came Louis Raymond, Steve Lefeber, Dick Brath, Owen Bendon, Jess Pryor, Emery Hansen, H.B. Heller, Vernon Herkenrath, Frank Stinn, Jiggs Neubauer, Ferd Gaul, Vern Tarkington, Joe Patton, Cecil & Cyril Monahan, and present day owners, Monahan Bros: Neil and Kenny, and Heller Bros: Rich and Phil.

With the coming of the farm tractor the tank wagon became a necessity and the tank wagon service for the community was started by Joe Gau in 1915. Leo Monahan also provided the service for many years as did H.B. Heller. It is still being provided today by Alvin Heller and Monahan Bros.

Joe W. Gau at the Standard Oil Bulk Plant-1918

Cecil Monahan and Fuel Truck-1930

Lou Raymond at his Service Station.

Steve Lefeber at His Gas Station.

Harry McAndrews, Cecil Monahan, Ray Thomas and Leo Ohlinger at The Monahan Garage-1932

Emory Hansen Gas Station-1937

Automobiles were soon joined on the highways and country roads by the first trucks. Dray service and railroad now had competition in the moving of freight. Draying days were numbered and the railroads would come to recognize a formidable rival for the shipping business.

Ray Thielen Truck-1930

Local truckers who drove the early trucks were Pete Michalski and Elmer Spracklin. Other early truckers were John Heller, Ed Schiltz, Jim White, Urban Klein, Ray Thielen & Frank Pursell. Also Francis Leinen, Adolph Johansen, Walt Kleffman, Rich Stein, Pete Jurschak, Sheldon Tarkington, Vern Tarkington, and Duane LaSourd were Portsmouth truckers.

Archie Hillyer, one of the early day truckers who started trucking in 1929, logged well over a million miles. Gene Schoemann continues in the trucking business at present. Today many farmers have their own trucks to haul grain and livestock.

A vital part of any town is it's bank. The first bank in Portsmouth was opened in 1884 by a private banker named Dallas F. Paul. It was called the Bank of Portsmouth. Mr. Paul conducted the banking business until 1892 when he sold to the present bank, the State Bank of Portsmouth. Another bank, the Citizens Bank, was in business for a short time during the early years.

Dressmaking was an early day skill much in demand. The commercial dressmakers who fashioned the latest styles were Kate Oathouse, Mamie Leonard and Lulu Bean. In addition, the Leonard girls styled appropriate hats for all occasions. Not until the 1950's was another type of shop for the ladies introduced in Portsmouth. Gemma Schechinger, (Mrs. Harry Sonderman,now deceased) opened a beauty shop. Other beauticians have been Judy Funk, Shirley Mumm, Lyn Schneider. Present day operators are Mrs. Ed (Peggy) Leinen, and Jan Hoffmann.

Numerous small businesses have been conducted in Portsmouth since 1882. Mrs. Susan Hammes operated a small bakery in her home and offered homemade bread and pastries for sale. Rug weaving has been carried out in Portsmouth at various times throughout the years. Grandmother Greenlee was one of the first to operate a home loom. Mrs. Anselm Elder, and later, Mrs. Kearney Elder had looms. Mrs. Bert Leinen is the last and has woven over 750 rugs.

During the 1920's a thriving business was the Hammes Shoe Store,operated by John and F.G. Hammes.

Furniture for the home was available from the stores of P.M. Coughlin and John Pfeifer. Mr. Pfeifer also operated an undertaking establishment.

Hammes Shoe Store

Cement blocks and bricks were made at a local brick yard and the bricks used in the construction of the first brick Catholic Church built in 1892 were supplied by this business.

Harold Zimmerman had an electrical shop and specialized in wiring and TV repair.

Ruby Wehr had a very succesful variety store located just north of the bank.

Ed Lawrence had a small orchard and also raised hybrid seed corn.

Hybrid Seed Corn Processing Crew at the Ed Lawrence Seed House.

So the former businesses are gone, but Portsmouth remains a strong community with excellent businesses still thriving.

Men who have served as Mayor of Portsmouth since 1882

A.W. SIMS 1st Mayor
THEO. KUHL
PETER KORTH
GEO. BATTEY
C.L. MILLER
I.E. HOUGHTON
A. BREWSTER
CHARLES SCROGGIN
PETER HERKENRATH
JOHN HAMMES
JOHN LEONARD
F.W. HAINLEY
JOSEPH GAU
MAURICE POWERS
HUBERT VON TERSCH
FRANCIS LEINEN
HENRY HELLER
PAT R. MONAHAN
GILES BENDON
WILLIAM GROTE
GERALD WALTZ
RICHARD LEINEN Present Mayor

Archie Caddell and Floyd Peterson in Cargill Elevator - 1948.

Do you remember....

The 1930's, when the young men and boys wore white shirts and pants.

Box socials and programs at the old country schools.

Going to visit some relative or neighbor on a Sunday afternoon - looking at his crops and livestock.

Going to the depot and watching the 9:20 p.m. train come in.

The Sisters coming in on the train. The men hauling their trunks from the depot to their house, and carrying the trunks up to the attic room.

Post Office

Receiving and sending of mail has always been an important part of any community. This also proved true of the Portsmouth area. The first post office in the Portsmouth area was in a log cabin located near Leland's Grove and was called the Rock Run Post Office. This was on the stage coach run and the post office building also served as the stage coach stop.

On Sept. 12, 1882 the Portsmouth, Iowa Post Office was established on Main Street in Portsmouth. Following are listed the Postmasters that have served Portsmouth in the order of their service beginning with the first postmaster to serve. George Walters, P.J. Korth, George Simms, Jacob Korth, Isaac Houghton, Simon A. Bendon, Francis A. Tracy, Anna R. Frederick, Kearney F. Elder, Joseph J. Clark, Amelia Sondag, John J. Herkenrath & Robert W. Grote the present postmaster.

Simon Bendon at The Post Office.

Following is a list of rural carriers for the Portsmouth rural routes; Route 1 established 9/1/02 Carriers: Oscar S. Gill, Giles S. Bendon, Kearney F. Elder, Charles S. Gue, Fred W. Benning. Route 2 established 11/16/07. Carriers: Kearney F. Elder, Matthias A. Ohlinger, Albert C. Ohlinger, Frank J. Frederick. Route 2 was discontinued 6/30/34 and the two routes were consolidated with Frank J. Frederick as the carrier, and Fred W. Benning retiring.

Portsmouth Post Office Personnel: Irene Arkfeld, Ruby Wehr, Walt Reisz and Bob Grote.

The clerks who have served in the Post Office are as follows; Ed Rosenthal, Emma Monahan, Dorothy Herkenrath, Dorothy Kenkel, Gemma Schechinger, Dorothy Gubbels, & Ruby Wehr who is the present postal clerk.

Transportation was of prime importance in the delivery of the mail in the early days of Rural Free Delivery. Horses, and horses and buggies were the first mode of transportation. With the beginning of the car age in the early 1900's, the automobile became a very important means of delivering the mail. One of Portsmouth's citizens who is now deceased, Mr. Frank J. Frederick related many interesting highlights upon his retirement in 1960.

Frank Frederick sorting mail at the Portsmouth Post Office.

Frank was appointed temporary carrier in Dec. 1920 with a presidential appointment on Oct. 23, 1921 by President Coolidge. He started hauling mail on the west route which was 27 miles long and had 93 patrons. In 1924 he transferred to the east route which was also 27 miles long and had 90 patrons. The routes were consolidated into one route in 1934, 53 miles in length and remained so until 1959 when extension increased the length to 63 miles with 145 patrons. When Mr. Frederick retired in 1960 there were only four of the original Boxholders living in the same place. Frank served with six Postmasters and was the first Rural Carrier to retire from the Portsmouth Post Office. The first car Frank used on the route was a 'not too good' second hand Model T. The first new car he purchased was a 1923 Model T roadster for a grand total of $392.00. His last car used in mail delivery had well over 100,000 miles on it. Six weeks in the winter of 1936 was the longest time that Frank could not make the complete route due to the snow blocked roads. In 1920 there were no hard surfaced roads. Now the roads are all hard surfaced.

After Frank retired in 1960 Walter Reisz served as the rural carrier for Portsmouth until Sept. of 1977 when he transferred to Mondamin, Iowa to serve as rural carrier there. At that time the Portsmouth Post Office became an Intermediate Office and the rural route was divided between Rural Route 3 of Harlan and Rural Route 1 of Persia. Veral Smith served the Portsmouth part of the

route until his retirement in Aug. 1980. Walt Reisz then returned to Portsmouth Route 2. H.J. Arkfeld served Portsmouth Route 1 from Sept. 1977 until his retirement Aug. 1980. He is succeeded by his wife Irene Arkfeld.

The railroads carried the mail for many years but the mail is now transported by truck and planes. During the time the railroads carried the mail to Portsmouth an early morning passenger train with a mail coach brought the bulk of the first class mail and also the other classes of mail, including newspapers, magazines, advertising and parcel post. There would be about 10 to 12 sacks of mail each morning. At Christmas time 25 to 30 sacks were the usual amount because of the heavy parcel post mailings, especially from the mail order houses such as Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. Springtime brought large shipments of baby chicks and some mornings the chorus of cheeping was more loud than melodious.

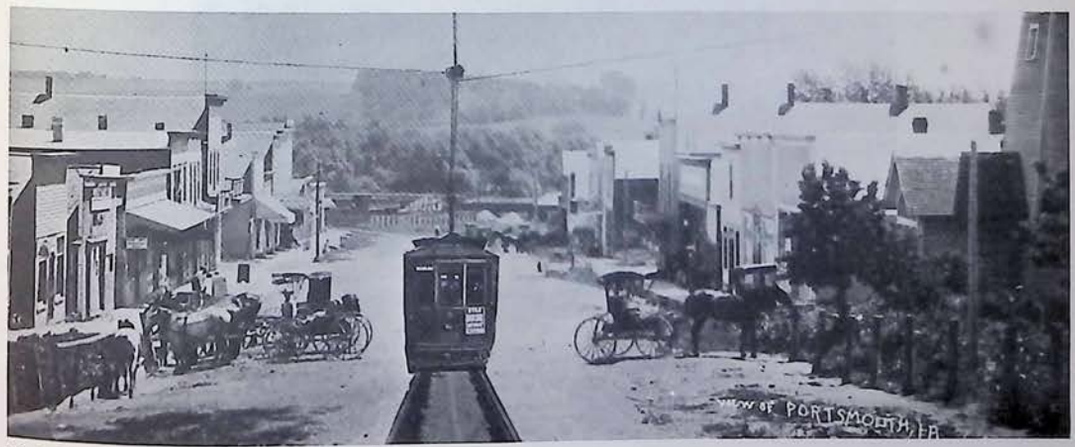
When the fast passenger trains went through town without stopping they took on 1st class mail by using a catcher arm to snag the mail from a post where it was hung in a special mail pouch. The mail clerk would also kick a bag of 1st class mail off the train as it went by. Sometimes the mail clerk miscalculated or something went wrong and a mail bag would end up in the weeds alongside the track, or worse, under the wheels of the train. Then the search was on to find the mail bag or to gather up the pieces of letters cut up by the wheels of the train.

The men who took the mail to and from the trains were conscientious and dedicated men as the early and late train arrivals made the work hours long and less than desirable. Some of the men who did this work were Art Fields, Steve Lefeber, George Hein and George McKeighan.

We've come a long way since the days of Rock Run but the Post Office still holds an attraction to everyone to stop in each morning to see if maybe there's a letter today. And farmers still watch for the rural carrier's car to stop at the box at the side of the road to leave the daily paper and mail.

Tony (Pal) Herkenrath and Ann Skalla

1935 Ford



Main Street of Portsmouth looking east - 1890's

Utilities

Final day of operator service at Portsmouth, 1960.
Ed Rosenthal, Dorothy Miller, Amelia Sondag.

The water system was the first utility installed in Portsmouth. In May of 1895 a lot was purchased from Susan Hammes and work commenced to build the first water tank. It was built of wood by local carpenters and cost $973. Crane Co. of Omaha had the low bid of $1680 for the water mains, fire hydrants and other material to install the town water system. These also were put in place by local labor. The first water works was powered by windmill from a shallow well. Later an electric motor at the power plant was used to pump the water to the water tank. In 1898 a second well was drilled which was sixty feet deep. Sometime in the early part of the century the standpipe, which most people remember, was purchased and placed in position on the hill where the present water tower stands. The present water tower was erected in Mar. 1957. Over the years additional mains and fire hydrants have been installed. The town now gets its water supply from the Shelby County Rural Water District No. 1. (A report on the Rural Water follows this article.)

Communications were vastly improved in 1903 when the Portsmouth Mutual Telephone Co. obtained a franchise to operate a telephone system in the Portsmouth Community. Within three years there were 155 patrons and the annual rate was twelve dollars with the patrons maintaining the lines. The first central office was located in Charles Monahan's implement building.

In 1904 Nebraska Telephone Co. also obtained a franchise for long distance and telegraph lines. Thus Portsmouth was linked by telephone lines to the rest of the country.

Among the first telephone operators in Portsmouth were Irene Williams, daytime, and Roy Williams, night time. Claudine Monahan was also one of the first operators. Many other operators responded to the call, "Hello Central" throughout the years.

The Mutual Co. was sold to Paul Wiese in 1916. Several other changes in ownership were recorded as time went on. In 1926 the Central West Public Service purchased the local telephone company and ten years later it was sold to the Central Electric and Telephone Co. Bruce Bradford was the next owner and he sold the company to Ed and Edward Rosenthal in 1948. Ten years later in 1958 the Central Iowa Rural Telephone Company included the Portsmouth Exchange in its consolidation of rural independent companies. This company installed the dial system in 1960 and this was the first dial system in Shelby County and also the first to have underground cables on the rural lines. The prefix on the telephone numbers was Sherwood, and local calls were restricted to six to eight minutes with an automatic cutoff set to terminate the conversations. Direct Dialing was installed during the 1970's and General Telephone Company of the Midwest, with headquarters in Grinnell, Iowa, now provides the local service at a charge of $6.46 per month for residential service on a single party line. General Telephone has laid new cables in the rural district in 1981. With the coming of the dial phone, the central office and the local telephone operators faded into history but will always be remembered for their important link between the home and the outside world, especially in time of emergency. Amelia Sondag and Dorothy Miller were the operators when the last call was made over the old system in 1960.

On the heels of the telephone company, another new convenience was beginning in Portsmouth. An electric light plant was begun in 1903 by M.A. Sorensen with Martin Ankerstein as manager. This plant was located on the M.E. Leinen farm just east of the city limits. By 1905 several hundred 16 and 32 candle power lights were in use in businesses, homes and street lights. The local light plant was discontinued when an electric transmission line from Persia was built about 1915 by John Peterson.

When the local light plant was in operation, the availability of electric current was regulated at the plant and was limited to hours from dusk to eleven o'clock or occasionally to midnight on nights of special occasion. For those fortunate enough to have electric washing machines, the power was made available on Monday and Tuesday forenoons.

The electric service to Portsmouth was taken over by the Iowa Service Company of Avoca and Missouri Valley about 1918. Ten years later the Iowa-Nebraska Light and Power Company furnished electricity to Portsmouth and eventually the Iowa Power and Light Company was given the franchise to provide electric power to the town and some rural customers. Iowa Power and Light continues to provide electric power to Portsmouth at the present time.

Just before World War II the Rural Electric Administration began providing power to rural homes and after the war intensified its efforts to bring electrification to all rural residents of the township.

Bell Communication Tower North of Portsmouth. Microwave Radio Relay Station Transmits Telephone and Long Distance Communications.

The latest source of energy for heating and cooking to reach Portsmouth is natural gas which became available in 1960. It is furnished by Iowa Power and Light Co. who purchases it from Northern Natural Gas.

A real evolution has transpired in the methods of communication in Cass Township in this century. From a tiny local telephone system we have progressed to cross-country direct dialing and international radio and television. A reminder of this modern system of communication is the relay station tower located three miles north of Portsmouth and maintained by the Bell Telephone Company. In these last sixty years, electricity and gas have also furnished comfortable means of heating homes, methods of preserving and preparing food, and providing power for numerous farm and business operations. But now with the ever increasing costs of fuel and energy we find ourselves reverting to some of the old time methods of heating and cooking, such as wood burning stoves and fireplaces. Solar and nuclear power are still in their infancy. Conservation is the order of the day. Perhaps an alternate fuel or source of energy will find its way to Portsmouth before too many years go by.

SHELBY COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1

The Shelby County Rural Water District was incorporated August 29, 1972 with the Board Members of: Ken Buman -President, Pat Newland - Vice-president, Edgar Wahling - Secretary, °Ray Rosmann - Treasurer and Orville Goshorn. Keith More is the Corporate Attorney. °In the spring of 1980 Mr. Rosmann passed away and was replaced by Gerald Lapke and his duties assumed by Orville Goshorn.

Contract bids were let February 2, 1977 and the first of 230 miles of pipe laid April 18, 1977. T.W. Chaffee was the prime contractor for the distribution system and Oakview Construction was the prime contractor for the treatment plant. Construction was completed July 24, 1980.

Rural Water consists of an 80 acre well field located near Avoca, Ia. containing 8 wells, the deepest is 30 feet and it is designed to draw 100 million gallons of water for 2 years without recharge. There is a 520 gallon per minute capacity at the plant, a 75,000 gallon ground storage tank, a 100,000 gallon elevated tank and a 75,000 gallon elevated tank. Four Booster Stations keep the elevated tanks topped off, take care of the Shelby connection and for interconnection with the City of Harlan's system. There are 405 members of Rural Water with service to three towns: Portsmouth, Shelby and Westphalia.

Water sold for the fiscal year July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981 totaled 61,306,700 gallons which averages 174,166 gallons daily.

Ray Anastasi is the Distribution Manager and has a Grade II license. He is responsible for the towers, the Booster Stations, and all the pipe line. Ray has been with Rural Water since March 1977.

Tom Grote is the Plant Manager and also has a Grade II license. Tom joined Rural Water in March of 1977; his job is the care and upkeep of the wellfield and running daily water tests to make sure the water meets all State and Federal requirements.

Jody Michalak is the Office Manager and started work for Rural Water in April of 1980. Her job is the billing, the daily, monthly and quarterly book work, taxes and reports and writing a monthly newsletter.

City Hall built in 1925

John Lefeber and Model T. Ford - 1924

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Desmond at their home. This house is now the home of Mike Neubauer.

Churches

St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Church Dedicated May 29, 1951

Interior of St. Mary's Church

The Catholic Faith was planted in the Portsmouth area in 1876 when the Korth, Leinen and Herkenrath families settled east of Portsmouth. Peter Korth, farmer, pioneer merchant in Portsmouth, justice of the peace (1876), and later mayor of Portsmouth (1885), donated five acres of land two and one-half miles east of the present town for a church site. This was on a level ridge called "Cologne Settlement" (because the settlers came mostly from Cologne, Germany). A frame church was begun in 1880 under the direction of Father J.A. Weber of Westphalia, and a cemetery laid out adjoining it. This church site is now the site of the Lawrence Weihs Sr. home). This church had a small tower with a bell in it, and "fence boards" for pews. It became an outmission of Neola and was cared for by Father Kempker.

Father Joseph Hummert

The first resident pastor of the Portsmouth parish was Father Joseph Hummert. He was born in Quincy, Illinois, March 25, 1860, ordained September 19, 1885, and was stationed as assistant pastor at Marengo, Iowa. He was appointed to Portsmouth on October 19, 1885, and arrived here the following month. Panama and Earling were his outmissions.

The congregation was anxious to have the young pastor make his residence in their town. In the summer of 1886 it was thought feasible to move the church site to the developing town of Portsmouth. A fair was held and one thousand eight hundred dollars was cleared. There was a seven hundred dollar deposit in the bank which was added to

Old Frame Church which was moved from 2½ Mi. East of Portsmouth to the site where the school building now stands.

this, plus a hundred dollar deposit in the bank which was added to this, plus a subscription list which had been raised. This was sufficient to purchase three and one-half acres of land from the Milwaukee Land Company, move the church to town, put on an addition of twenty feet and a tower and pay off the debt on the parsonage. A six room house had been bought from John L. Birke and furnished as a rectory. The town then had a population of 150, Cass township population was 874. The parish counted sixty Catholic families. The rural cemetery was moved adjacent to the town church in 1887. Father Hummert, despite his tender health, was a true apostle of action; he had built a frame church on the hill in Panama, and a church school in Earling (1887). Because of the development at Earling, he moved there in 1888 as Earling's first pastor.

House bought in 1885 and used as a Rectory. It was torn down in 1948 and the present Albert Leinen Home was built on the same site.

Father J.B. Wilhelm, the second pastor (1888-1891) sold the rectory and a new two story white frame bulding was constructed on the site of the present rectory. In the spring of 1891, Father H. Grothe arrived, but he remained only until late summer and was replaced by the Rev. F.W. Hoppman.

When Father Hoppman came, the population of Portsmouth had grown to 295 and that of Cass township to 1,050. The number of Catholics was growing rapidly, and

Old Rectory Built 1890
Presently the Luella Hendricks' home.

the need of a Catholic school became a demand. The old frame church was converted into a school and convent, and the first brick church was begun in 1892. The bricks for the church were made in Portsmouth, except for the face brick which were brought in. This church, with its tall needle like steeple pointing to the heavens, served as the Portsmouth Landmark until it was destroyed by a tornado on July 8, 1940. Classes began in the parochial school in the fall of 1894 under the supervision of Father S.F. Weiland who had succeeded Father Hoppman in the middle of the summer. The first teachers were the Franciscan Sisters of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Later came the Benedictine Sisters of Atchison, who have been working with the youth of the parish these many years.

In June 1895, Father A.J. Drexler became the sixth pastor of Portsmouth and remained until 1901 when Father J.J. Moran came.

Father Hoppman

St. Mary's Parish Buildings - 1894

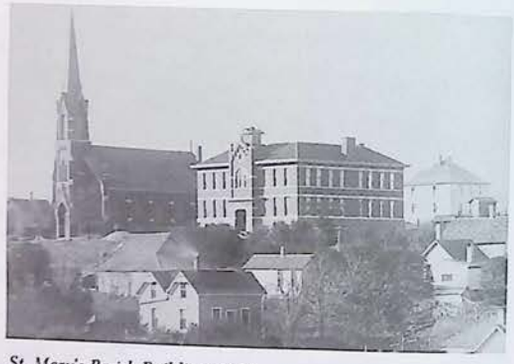
Father A.J. Drexler

Father J.J. Moran

In January of 1905, Father Julius Failenschmid became the eighth pastor of St. Mary's. The town now numbered 316, Cass township's population was 1073. With the increase in population, it was thought necessary to build a larger school. The present brick school with a community hall built in was erected in 1911. An electric light plant was purchased in 1911 to supply power for the parish buildings. The convent was refurnished and modernized.

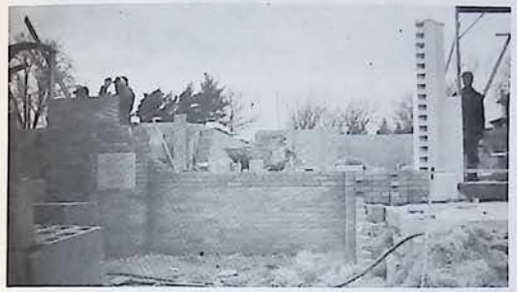
In 1912, the Diocese of Des Moines was formed. Articles of incorporation were drawn up for the parish in December 1912 and signed by Bishop Austin Dowling (first Bishop of Des Moines), Rev. Michael Flaven, Rev. Julius Failenschmid, and parish trustees J.J. Herkenrath and F.W. Hainley and witnessed by James F. Hart and R.L. Williams. The official name of the parish was to be St. Mary's Church of Shelby County, Iowa. The Parish purchased additional land to enlarge the cemetery to the full length of the church property and land south of the church for a driveway to the cemetery. Father Failenschmid replaced the frame rectory with the present brick structure in 1917. His constant interest and encouragement in civic, community and educational activities, and his thirty years of faithful service to the parishioners of St. Mary's, contributed more to the welfare of the community than an enumeration of building activities could possibly denote, for the intangibles often have a greater influence than tangibles. He died here November 21, 1935, after a long illness, and is the first pastor to be buried in St. Mary's cemetery.

Father Nicholas A. Gaul became pastor of St. Mary's on December 12, 1935. He was born near Earling, Iowa. His

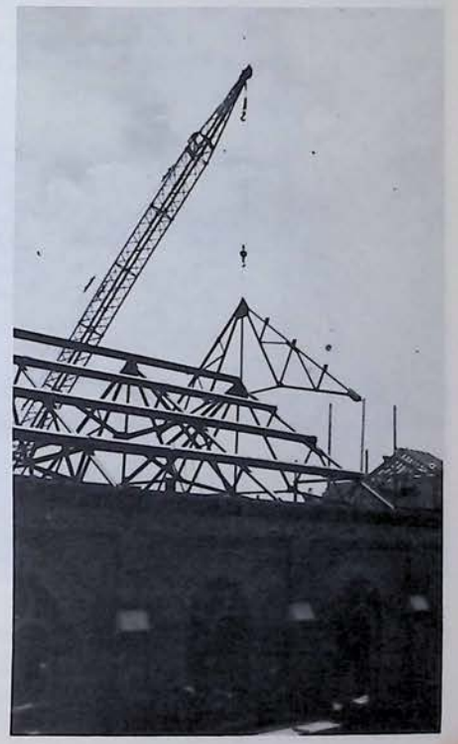


St. Mary's Parish Buildings 1914

desire to expand the church facilities was made imperative by the destruction of the brick church by the tornado in 1940. While plans were prepared and funds established, the shortage of building materials due to World War II requirements, delayed the enterprise for some ten years during which time church services were held in the school hall. The wrecking of the old church was begun on September 11, 1945, by the parishioners. There were many workers and the church was demolished within a week. The Building Committee formed for the construction of the new church consisted of Father N.A. Gaul, Pastor, Joe Sondag and Nick Springman, Trustees, also, Joe Leinen, M.E. Leinen, Fred Stein and Anthony Reinig. The beautiful



Construction of New Church-1949-1951



Romanesque building was begun in 1949 and the cornerstone was laid on October 13, 1949, by His Excellency the Most Reverend Bishop Daly of Des Moines. The building was completed in 1951 at a cost of $200,000.

Laying the Cornerstone of St. Mary's Church October 13, 1949

The first Mass in the new church was read by the pastor on the feast of Corpus Christi, May 24, 1951. The building was dedicated under the title of Our Lady of Fatima by the diocesan Vicar General, Rt. Rev. Msgr. L.V. Lyons, on May 29, 1951. The first marriage ceremony performed in the church was that of Rose Ann Leinen and James Slaven. The first baptism in the new church was Larry Lavern Hendricks, son of Ernest and Luella Hendricks. The first funeral was that of Mrs. Paul Nowatzke.

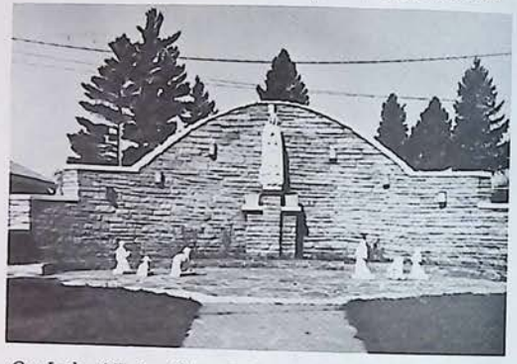
The statue of Our Lady of Fatima, on an international pilgrimage, stopped at Portsmouth, November 5, 1950.

Our Lady of Fatima Procession Nov. 5, 1950

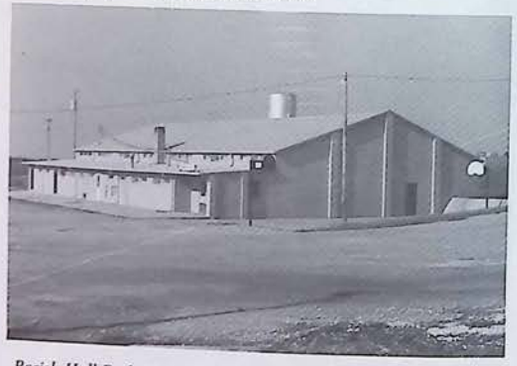
The statue was met at Harlan and a caravan of some 500 cars formed the parade from Harlan to Portsmouth in a five mile line escorted by the State Police. A shrine dedicated to Our Lady was erected on the parish grounds in 1956.

A substantial parish hall was erected in 1959. The Ford Engineering Construction Co. of Council Bluffs was general contractor for the building of the hall. The total cost of construction was around $70,000. The corner stone was blessed and layed by Msgr. Joseph Sondag, Chancellor of the Diocese and a native of Portsmouth. The completed hall was blessed on August 23, 1959. The parish grounds

Our Lady of Fatima Statue at St. Mary's Church Nov. 5, 1950



Our Lady of Fatima Shrine Built 1956



Parish Hall Built 1959

were leveled making for an ample parking lot. The usual cooperative spirit of the parishioners lending their efforts accomplished many of these enterprises by their own labor. The hall has more than adequate space for social gatherings, parish activities and athletics. It serves as the social center of the community.

On October 13, 1960, the parish celebrated the 75th annversary of the appointment of Father Joseph Hummert as first pastor of the parish and also the 25th anniversary of the appointment of the present pastor, Msgr. N.A.Gaul.

Msgr. Gaul retired from parish life in 1964 to serve as chaplain at the Little Flower Haven rest home in Earling, Iowa. He returned to Portsmouth to be honored by St. Mary's Parish on the anniversary of his Golden Jubilee to the priesthood on May 29, 1970. He resided at the Haven until his death on January 15, 1979. He is buried in St. Mary's cemetery next to his sister, Elizabeth Gaul, who served as his housekeeper until her death in 1961.

The tenth pastor, The Very Rev. Msgr. Michael W. Schwarte, came March 1, 1964. He was a native of Westphalia, Iowa, and at the time of his appointment was president of Dowling High School in Des Moines, Iowa, where he had taught for the past twenty-two years. Improvements in parish operations were continued; parish records were card-indexed, a male choir formed, the cemetery was plot-mapped. A Sunday bulletin was begun and a Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) organized. The Rosary Confraternity financed convent renovation. The parish trustees, Joe Leinen and Anthony Reinig continued to give valuable leadership. In July of 1969, Msgr. Schwarte was moved to a new pastorate at St. Patrick's in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Father Phil Lawler, the assistant pastor in Portsmouth for the previous five years, was transferred to St. Michael's in Harlan, Iowa.

In August of 1969, Father Edward Kelly was named the new pastor of St. Mary's. He had been teaching at Dowling High School in Des Moines. He was a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He continued to make improvements in the parish property. The sanctuary was remodeled with a new altar being installed as well as carpeting. The church was partially repainted in 1973 by a group of parishoners. A new organ was installed in 1974. Father Kelly remained as pastor until August of 1977 when he was appointed pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Atlantic, Iowa.

Father Vince Rosonke, a native of New Hampton, Iowa, was appointed pastor and arrived in September of 1977. He had been serving as co-pastor at Creston, Iowa, before taking this assignment. Changes and improvements continue to be made. In 1978, St. Mary's Grade School became St. Mary's Regional School with the center in Panama for all eight grades. The Portsmouth school continues to be used for grade and high school Religious Education Classes as well as for other parish activities. In 1980, the basement of the rectory was remodeled into a chapel with seating for approximately sixty and is used for daily mass. The confessional areas at the sides of the church were converted into alcoves, one for the statue of the Sacred Heart and the other for the holy water font and votive lights. The Baptismal font was brought to the side of the altar in the front of the church in keeping with the new liturgy.

With the announcement that Pope John Paul II was coming to Des Moines on October 4, 1979, many made plans to attend this momentous event. Traveling by car and bus, the number that attended from the parish was large. We were privileged to have the large banner used at the Pope's mass in Des Moines in our church for the Benedictine anniversary celebration in November of 1980. We were also permitted the use of the processional cross and the chalice from this occasion.

Over the years, St. Mary's was ably served by a number of outstanding and dedicated associate pastors. Without the aid of these hard-working priests much of the teaching and ministry would not have been able to be carried out. From the 1930's until August of 1969 these priests were stationed in the parish as assistant pastors; Msgr. Paul Marasco, Fathers Maurice Schulte, John Hart, John Power, Thomas O'Brien, Adam Reisz, John Ryan, Jacob Weiss, Bernard Heese, Lawrence Burns, Ralph Goeser, Charles Gaul, Albert Wilwerding, and Phillip Lawler.

At this time in St. Mary's History, the oldest living male member of the parish is John Leinen. His family came to the area in 1875. Mrs. Mary Daeges, Mrs. Elizabeth Skalla and Mrs. Elizabeth Smith hold the distinction of being the oldest female members of the parish, being past 90 years in age.

John J. "Frisch" Leinen 89 years of age

Mary Matilda Daeges 98 years of age

Did You Know?

A curfew was in effect in 1901 for all persons under the age of seventeen from 8:00 PM until 6:00 AM.

Elizabeth Skalla 96 years of age

Elizabeth Smith-90 years of age 4 Generations-Mary Pichler, Mrs. Smith, Christina Pichler, Marge Madsen.

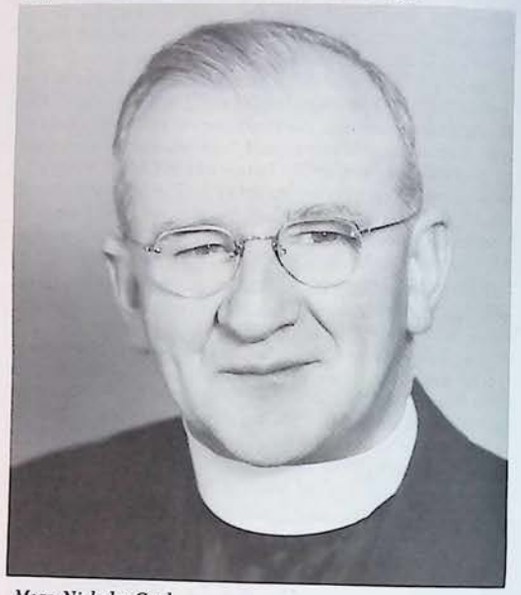
Father Julius Failenschmid

Julius Failenschmid was born in Ravensburg, Germany, November 17, 1875. He was the son of George and Josepha Failenschmid. His father was a tailor by trade. Julius attended schools in Ravensburg and as a young man came to America to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he resumed his studies for the priesthood at St. Francis Seminary. He was ordained on June 19, 1898. He served as an assistant pastor at Keokuk, Iowa, then went to Exira, Iowa, where he served from 1898 until 1904. He came to Portsmouth in 1905. During his early years at Portsmouth, he built a new school and a Sister's house.

Father Failenschmid was a very civic-minded person with great concern for the welfare of the community. He died in 1935 after a long illness. He was the first priest to be buried in St. Mary's cemetery.

Monsignor N.A. Gaul

Nicholas A. Gaul was born at Earling, Iowa on April 16, 1893. He was ordained a priest on May 29, 1920. After serving as pastor in several parishes he was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Portsmouth, Iowa on December 12, 1935. During his tenure the present church and community hall were built. He served as pastor until his retirement in 1964 to become chaplain at the Little Flower Haven Rest Home in Earling, Iowa. He returned to Portsmouth to celebrate the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on May 29, 1970. He passed away January 15, 1979 and is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.



Msgr. Nicholas Gaul

Father Julius Failenschmid

Monsignor Michael W. Schwarte

Michael W. Schwarte is a native of Westphalia, Iowa and was born June 25, 1912. He was ordained a priest on June 11, 1938. He was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa on March 1, 1964. He had served at Dowling High School in Des Moines, Iowa for twenty-two years and had been the President of that institution since 1959. He was pastor at Portsmouth until 1969 when he was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Msgr. Michael Schwarte

Father Edward Ryan Kelly

Edward Ryan Kelly was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on February 19, 1930. He is the son of Joseph and Marie Ryan Kelly. He attended Holy Family Grade School and St. Francis High School in Council Bluffs, graduating in 1948. He attended Conception Seminary College and Mt. St. Bernard's Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He was ordained on May 31, 1956. He received his Masters Degree from Creighton University in 1958. He was a teacher at Dowling High School in Des Moines from 1956 to 1969.

He was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Portsmouth in 1969. He remained there until 1977 when he was appointed Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Atlantic, Iowa.

Did You Know?

In 1904 the town of Portsmouth had to put in one block of hitching racks immediataely.

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The first cement sidewalks were constructed in 1905.

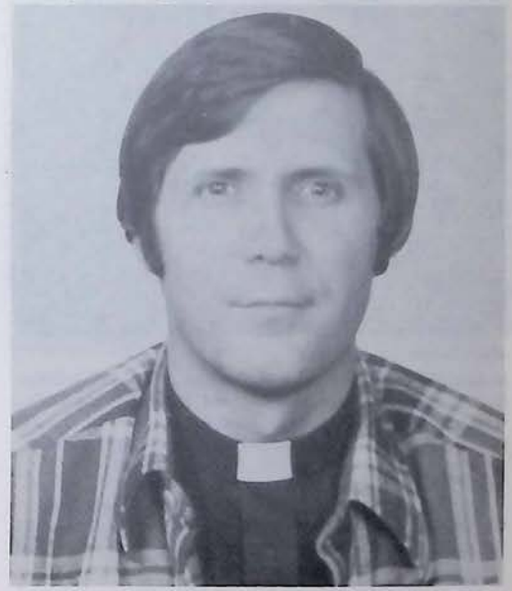
°°°°°°°°°°

A major fire in Oct. 1928 on the north side of the business district destroyed the Post Office and a blacksmith shop and damaged other buildings.

Father Edward Kelly

Father Vince Rosonke

Vince Rosonke is a native of New Hampton, Iowa. He is the son of Anthony and Helen Rosonke and was born June 7, 1949. After graduating from high school at New Hampton, he attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. He then attended St. Thomas Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado. He was ordained a priest on May 24, 1975. He was named an associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, Creston, Iowa. Father Vince was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Portsmouth and arrived on September 6, 1977. He is still serving in that capacity.



Father Vince Rosonke

Vocations

Those that have dedicated their lives over the years to service of their church from St. Mary's Parish are; Msgr. Joseph Sondag, Father Joseph Kula, Father Paul Monahan and Father Robert Schoemann. Those in the Sisterhoods are; Sisters Amadea Leinen OSF (deceased), Gordinia Jacobs OSF (deceased), Othilda Bendon OSF (deceased), Revocata Leinen OSF, Joseph Book OSF, Rosalita Grund OSB, Severina Sondag OSF, Lita Rau OSF (deceased), Elaine Schoemann FSPA, Mary Schoemann FSPA and Josephine Schoemann FSPA.

Monsignor Joseph J. Sondag

Joseph Sondag was the first Portsmouth native to be ordained a priest from St. Mary's Parish. He was the son of Joseph and Mary Sondag and was born August 26, 1921. He attended St. Mary's Grade and High Schools. After graduation, he attended St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas and Conception Seminary, Conception, Missouri. He was ordained on February 21, 1948 at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines by Bishop Gerald Bergan. He offered his first Solemn Mass at St. Mary's Chapel on February 24, 1948. After two years of study at the Catholic University in Ottawa, Canada he received a degree of licentiate in Canon Law. He was appointed ViceChancellor of the Diocese in 1950 and Chancellor in 1952. In 1954 he was given the title of Very Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII. He served as Chancellor until August of 1963 when he was appointed Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish

Msgr. Joseph Sondag

in Atlantic, Iowa. He was killed in an airplane crash at the Rome airport on November 23, 1964. He and Bishop Daly, who was also killed, were on their way to the Holy Land. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Atlantic, Iowa.

Father Joseph Kula

Joseph Kula came to the Portsmouth area from St. James Orphanage, Omaha, Nebraska. He made his home with Joe and Mary Daeges during his high school years. He attended St. Mary's High School.

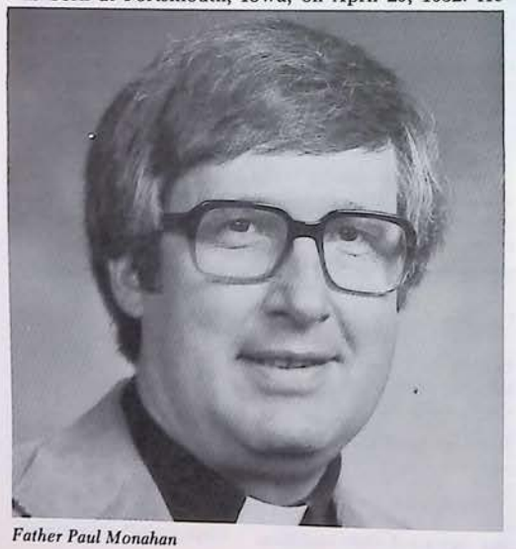
After completing his seminary studies, he was ordained at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, by Bishop Daly of

Father Joseph Kula

Des Moines. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass on May 20, 1955, at St. Mary's. He was ordained for the Birmingham, Alabama Diocese and has served in the capacity of Pastor in a number of parishes in that area. He returned to Portsmouth to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination on May 19, 1980. After studying at Creighton University in the field of hospital ministry, he is now serving in that field in Alabama.

Father Paul Monahan

Paul Monahan, the son of Cecil and Emma Monahan, was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, on April 29, 1932. He

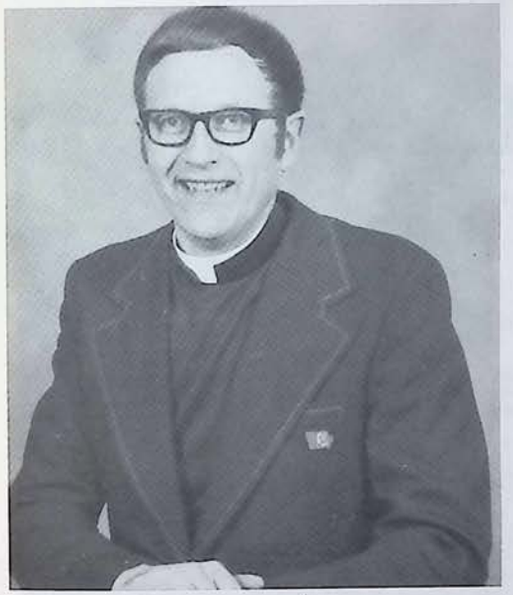


Father Paul Monahan

attended St. Mary's Grade and High Schools graduating in 1950. He entered the Seminary and was ordained a priest on June 5, 1960, at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, by Bishop Daly. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass in St. Mary's Church on June 6, 1960. After his ordination he served as a teacher and then was appointed Administrator of St. Alberts High School, Council Bluffs, Iowa. He served in that area until being appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Avoca, Iowa in July of 1979.

Father Robert Schoemann

Robert Schoemann was born near Portsmouth, Iowa on November 9, 1938. He is the son of Chris and Sophia Schoemann. He attended grade school at Cass Center country school. He attended St. Mary's High School for two years and Mt. Michael Abbey at Elk Horn, Nebraska, for two years. After graduation, he attended Conception Seminary, Conception, Missouri and Mt. St. Bernard's in Dubuque. He was ordained at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, on June 5, 1966 by Bishop George Biskup. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass on June 7, 1966 in St. Mary's Church. After serving as an assistant pastor in several areas, he was appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Woodbine, Iowa, and then was appointed Pastor of Queen of Apostle's Parish, Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he now resides.



Father Robert Schoemann

Sister Revocata Leinen, who is in her mid-nineties, resides in a nursing home in Illinois. Sister Joseph Book resides in a convent in Missouri. Sister Rosalita Grund serves her Benedictine Order in California. Sister Severina Sondag is a professional seamstress at the convent in Wisconsin. Sisters Elaine Schoemann, Mary Schoemann and Josephine Schoemann are all members of the Order of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration of St. Rose Convent, La Crosse, Wisconsin. Sister Elaine is a Licensed Practical

Did You Know?

In 1882 lumber to build the first structures in Portsmouth was bought at Shelby and hauled to Portsmouth with team and wagon.

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The first jail building in Portsmouth was completed in 1882 at a cost of $132.

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The first sidewalks were built on Main street in May 1883. They consisted of boards one inch thick nailed on 2x4 stringers, and were four feet wide.

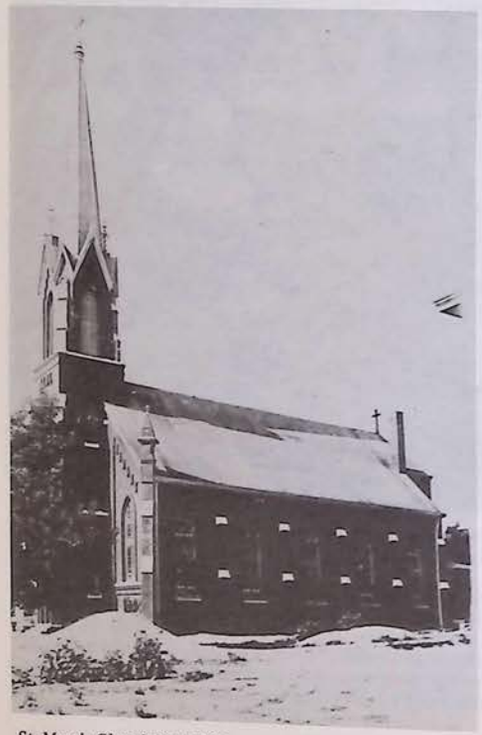
••••••••••

In 1884 saloons were open from 5:00 AM to 10:00 PM and no card playing was allowed in a public place.

Sisters Gordiana Jacobs, Revokata Leinen, Amadea Leinen, Anna Korth.

Nurse working in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Sister Mary is in the Pastoral Care area of St. Mary's Hospital, Lafayette, Louisiana. Sister Josephine is a teacher in the parochial schools at Dedham, Iowa. The three Schoemann Sisters are the daughters of Chris and Sophia Schoemann and sisters of Father Robert Schoemann.

Sisters Elaine, Mary Ann and Josephine Schoemann.



St. Mary's Church Built 1892

Interior of the Church-Built 1892

St. Mary's Parish First Communion Class in first brick church-1893

St. Mary's Parish Picnic-1938

Knights of the altar-1945

R. 1: Veryl Wehr, Don Heller, Jim Kleffman, Neil White. R. 2: Rich Leinen, Mick Schmidt, Al Thielen, Lawrence Leinen, Phil Monahan, Gerald Andersen, Bob White, Jim Leinen, Harold White. R. 3: Rich Heller, Rich Bendon, Paul Monahan, Max Plambeck, Rich Frederick, Alfred Reinig, Don White, Rich Lefeber, Eldred Zimmerman, Ray Pitsch. R. 4: Bernard Leinen, Gerald Jacobs, Jim Fuhs, Jim Slaven. R. 5: Harold Huebner, Rich Sondag, Father Gaul, Joe Funk, Harold Thielen.

St. Mary's Parish Buildings and Grounds-1960

Did You Know?

In 1886 the town park was established.

Fish Pool and Rock Garden South of Church-1938

Knights of the Altar - 1950

R. 1: Mick Leinen, Rich Cairney, Ken Sonderman, Raymond Gubbels, R. 2: Veral Heller, Neil Zimmerman, Joe Gubbels, Marv Gubbels, Bob Stein, Neil Monahan, Paul Katzer, Gene Petsche. R. 3: Joe Leinen, Dick Herkenrath, Bill Andersen, Bob Leinen, Bob Cairney, Joe Springman, Don Reinig, Phil Heller. R. 4: Al and Nick Thielen, Harvey Leinen, Ron Reinig, Father Gaul, Jim Brady, Larry Weihs. R. 5: Vernon Gubels, Don Heller, Phil Monahan, Ernest Lefeber, Orville Leinen, Dean Gau, LaVern Andersen, Zimmerman. R. 6: Gerald Andersen, Rich Leinen, Gerald Gubbels, Jim Leinen, Alfred Reinig, Gene Reinig, Gene Gessert.

Methodist Church

In the early years of Portsmouth, the Methodist Episcopal Church was represented. The Methodist people in 1885 erected a neat structure, suitable to the size of Portsmouth, costing $500. Its size was 28 by 46 feet. The membership was only five when the group first organized and never grew in size to any great extent. Early ministers of the church were Rev. Wright of Panama and Rev. Francis Cupp Cook of Harlan. The prominent members during the era from 1910 to 1920 were the Lawrence family with Dave Lawrence serving as lay leader as there was no assigned minister. Eventually the Methodist church building in Portsmouth was condemned and M.D. Leinen and Andrew Benson bought it at an auction in 1939 and the building was torn down for salvage. The church stood on what is presently the home site of Mrs. Fred Pauley.

Methodist Church Built in 1885

Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church services were at the Karl and Henry Dohrmann homes in Cass Township during the early years of settlement. From 1888 until June 13, 1897, Lutheran services were held in the Methodist Church in Portsmouth. After that time, services were held in Persia.

Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints

The old Leland Grove School House, located about a mile and one-half south of Portsmouth, was also a church for the Salem branch of the Latter Day Saints. There were eighteen members representing the following families; Hollidays, Lelands, Shackeltons, Seddons, Halls, Bullards and Leythams. Richard Leytham was a teacher and his son, John, was a deacon.

Cemeteries

Two cemeteries are located near Portsmouth, both dating from the very early days of the community. The Cass Township Cemetery was organized and laid out by the township officers in 1878. The cemetery is situated atop a hill in the southern part of the township in Section 27. Several stately pine trees and a sprinkling of spirea bushes mark the quiet country cemetery. It is the final resting place for veterans of the Union and Confederate Armies as well as other American wars. Many pioneer settlers of Cass Township were also buried there.

The graves are widely scattered and many lots have not been used. A number of markers bear the dates of the late 19th century but during the last decades the number of

Cass Township Cemetery 1981

burials has decreased. Undoubtedly, this is a reflection of the gradual change of the religious affiliation of the township population. Originally, a number of Protestants settled in Cass Township but through the years this number has decreased and the number of Catholics has increased. The cemetery continues to be administered by the elected township officers and is a tax supported unit.

The second cemetery in the township is known as St. Mary's Cemetery and is located on the church property at the outskirts of western Portsmouth. Originally this cemetery was laid out in 1880 and was located 2 1/2 miles east of Portsmouth beside the first Catholic Church. The rural cemetery was moved near the town church in 1887. The graves of the five parishioners buried there were removed to the extreme north boundary of the new cemetery.

After 1912, additional land was purchased to enlarge the cemetery to the full length of church property. In the middle 1960's the cemetery was plot-mapped for the first time by Peter and Ernie Ohlinger. A committee is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of this private cemetery. Committee members of the past with long years of service include: Arnold Gau- 50 years; P.J. Ohlinger-52 years; and Mike Sandbothe-35 years. Other committee members were John Fuhs, Don Leinen and John Ohlinger.

The last addition to the cemetery was made about 1968 when an acre of ground was purchased on the west side of the cemetery.

The beautiful marble statue group which is located near the entrance to the cemetery was dedicated as a memorial

P.J. Ohlinger and Mike Sandbothe at St. Mary's Cemetery

First Communion Class of 1981
Kelly Lefeber, Jason Honeywell, Chad Fiscus, Debra Buman, Father Vince Rosonke, Julie Sporrer, James R. Christensen, Danny Springman, Danny Kohl

Fr. Vince Rosonke, Tony Reinig and Harold Huebner at Parish Gathering. Honoring Fr. Vince's Birthday and Tony's 30 years of Service as a Parish Trustee.

Rogation Day Services at the Paul McDermott Farm 1981

Glenn Carstens, Joe Buman, Frank Funk, Mike Pauley and Terry Carstens barbecuing hamburgers at St. Mary's Parish picnic-1981

Supper Line at St. Mary's Picnic-1981

St. Mary's Rectory, Church and School 1982

Did You Know?

Wages in 1886 were 1.25 per day for a man and 2.50 per day for a man and team.

°°°°°°°°°°

The first town well was on the southwest corner of the intersection, where Heller's station now stands. It was five feet deep and had a hand pump.

Portsmouth once had weekly newspapers. In 1885 the Portsmouth Times was published. In 1894 The Shelby County Leader was read by the townsfolk, and in 1905 A.J. Cox was the editor of the Shelby County Gazette. All 3 papers were printed in Portsmouth.

to Pvt. John Reinig who was killed in action during World War I.

Five and six generations of the founding families are now buried in the cemetery.

John E. Reinig Memorial at St. Mary's Cemetery

St. Mary's Cemetery Memorial Day - 1981

Alvin, Rich, Phil and Veral Heller as Mass Servers for their parents 25th Wedding Anniversary - 1950.

Sister Mary Patrick and Sister Arsenia

Father Julius Failenschmid with an early car.

Sister's house loaded for removal - 1980.

Schools and Alumni Lists

Portsmouth Public School built 1886.

St. Mary's School built - 1911

The schools of Cass Township have a very colorful history. They consisted of the rural or township, the town independent, and the parochial schools.

The early school was indeed a challenge every morning for the teacher and the student who had to walk or ride horseback to the pioneer centers of learning where the eight grades were taught. A fire had to be kindled every morning in a potbellied stove, and it took most of the morning to get the room comfortable so the children could study. The plumbing, of course, was outdoors, the rooms lighted with kerosene lamps, and the lunches carried in a pail. In later years, oil stoves and furnaces were a convenience appreciated by all. From 1897-1910 there were male teachers but after 1910 very few male teachers were in the classrooms. Mostly female teachers graced the classrooms.

Teachers and Pupils at Portsmouth Town public school in the Early Days

Some of the rural teachers in the schools in the early years were B.V. Springer, Lelia Gilbert, Ethyl Lawson, Mary Hammes, Dora Dohrman, Nina Leythman, Ida Graybill, Angie Monahan, Charles Gallagher, Dora Hammes, Claudine Monahan, Elsie Dahlhemier, James Monahan, Irene Schumacher, Clara Baxter, Margaret Hammes, Jessie Slaven, Marie Monahan, Mary Pitsch, Cecilia McLaughlin, Rose Pitsch, and Ethyl Copeland. The monthly wage was 40 to 50 dollars.

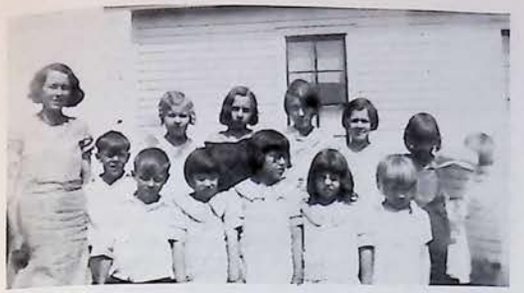
Mary (Hammes) Sondag and Pupils at Portsmouth Public School-1910

A married teacher was rare, but during World War II and after, more married women became teachers due to the shortage. Schools had much better material and books

Hoover School House-Cass Twp.

for the teachers use, and the schools were better graded than in the earlier years. Reading was much improved by the use of phonics. In the earlier years an eighth grade education was thought of as adequate, but those students desiring secondary education were sent to nearby towns with the tuition paid by the township. By 1950 wages were $200 a month in some townships and increased every year until the schools were closed one by one. On January 28, 1948 the Leland Grove School, No.6 burned down. A new building was built and opened for school in the fall of 1949. No.6 was the last rural school to close in May, 1966 with seventeen children in attendance. Mrs. Kate Plambeck was the last teacher in the rural schools. In July 1966, most of the township was included in the Harlan Community School District. Other rural schools in the township as they were known in the last years were Pauley, Smith, Jurschak, Hoover, and Hilltop.

Cass No. 3 Public School (Jurschak School) Northwest of Portsmouth.



Cass No. 1 Public School (Pauley School). Early 1930's.
F. Franklin Weihs, Catherine Gessert, Bernadine Gessert, Virginia Gessert, Mildred Feser, Ralph Pauley.
B. Marie Sondag, teacher, Florence Weihs, Mary Ann Pauley, Mary Ann Feser, Viola Weihs, Marjorie Feser, Helen Weihs, Mark Feser.

The first public school in Portsmouth, known as Portsmouth Independent, was a two story frame structure, built in 1886 costing $2500. George Battey was the first president, and U. L. Bailey the first principal. There were ten grades and the first commencement was in 1897 with two graduates, Kearney Elder and Elma Rankin. Miss Rankin gave a dissertation on the history of Portsmouth as her graduation address. The third graduation class was in 1903 with Grace Leytham, Edgar Blakely, Harry Rankin, and Rena Williams in the class. Some of the teachers in the early years were Frank Gallagher, Ida Graybill, Kate Griffin, Anna Dunn, Mary Monahan, Albert McGinn, Ethyl Lawson, Ralph Kirkpatrick, Mary Hammes, B.A. Kennedy, Jessie Slaven, Dora Hammes, and Irene Schumacher. In later years the ninth and tenth grade were eliminated and only the first eight grades were taught. The Portsmouth tornado of 1940 damaged the public school, and at that time, the top story was torn off and the school rebuilt into a one room building.

Graduation Class 1910-Portsmouth Public School-Alta J. Howe, Elsie Jenkins, Margaret Hammes, Dora Hammes, Esther McKeighan, Albert McGinn

Dwindling enrollment eventually resulted in dropping all the grades except kindergarten in 1957. The building was later turned over to the Harlan Community School District as the school was included in that district. Kindergarten was held there until it was decided to combine the Panama-Portsmouth classes. The Portsmouth students were

Portsmouth Public School-Laverne Wilson, Shirley Anderson, Roberta McKeighan, Vernita Galiher, Victor Wilson, Bobbie Curran, Marita (Leinen) Bendon-Teacher

transported by bus to Panama. At the present time, the Portsmouth students still go to Panama. The buildings and grounds were returned to the town, and it was later sold to a resident who is still the owner.

Former Portsmouth Public School as it looks today-1982

The St. Mary's Parochial School in Portsmouth had its beginning in the old frame church which was converted into a school and convent in the fall of 1894 under the direction of Rev. Weiland who was the resident pastor.

Old Frame Church Building Converted to the First St. Mary's Parochial School and Convent-1894

The School Sisters of Saint Francis from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Sisters of Humility from Ottumwa, and the

Benedictine Sisters from Atchison, Kansas were the teachers throughout the years. The Bendictine Sisters came in 1907 and have worked with the youth of the parish these many years. As the town of Portsmouth grew in the early 1900's, as well as the township, the necessity of a larger school became evident. The present brick building was erected in 1911. The resident pastor, Father Julius Failenschmid, increased the educational opportunities of the people by inaugurating the parochial high school and having it placed on the approved list of the Iowa State Board of Education in 1930. The high school was also taught by the Benedictine Sisters. The years passed with many children of parishioners receiving their education in a Christian atmosphere.

First Pupils at St. Mary's School Built 1911

St. Mary's First 12th Grade Graduation Class-Father Failenschmid, A.C. (Ike) Ohlinger, Marie Bendon Kruger

Msgr. Gaul had the school hall, which had been used for church services for over ten years, remodeled into classrooms, so that the high school students were on the third floor of the school. The parishioners did all the work gratis, and they did a splendid job. All rooms were nicely painted, and it looked like a new building. In the 1960's under the able direction of Msgr. Michael Schwarte, the educational potential was increased by introducing science and activity fairs, field trips, book fairs, remedial programs, modernization of curriculum, and school consolidation. In the fall of 1964, the St. Mary's Schools of Panama and Portsmouth united their resources to upgrade their facilities, laboratories, etc. The grade school students commuted to Portsmouth, the high school to Panama. By pooling their resources and efforts, the two parishes could meet the demands for greater educational variety and opportunity. The school was known as St. Mary's PanamaPortsmouth. The Benedictine Sisters continued to staff the schools, with the help of the pastors, assistant priest, and lay teachers. Physical improvements in the school and convent were made by the parishioners. The St. Mary's Panama-Portsmouth High School closed in 1967, as did all the Catholic High Schools in Shelby County. Most of the high school students transferred to Harlan High School, while others went to Woodbine High School, and Tri-Center High School. The St. Mary's grade school was divided between the two parish centers of Panama and Portsmouth. Grades one through four were in the Panama center, and grades five through eight in the Portsmouth center. In 1973 the convent at Portsmouth was closed and all the teaching sisters of the Benedictine Order moved to the convent in Panama. The Portsmouth convent was rented to a family from the parish until the Parish Council decided to sell it to be moved from the parish property. In July 1980 it was moved west of Portsmouth along Highway 44 where it is now a family home.

Sister's House being moved 1980

Due to declining enrollment, inflation, and higher costs of education, a Steering Committee was formed in 1976, for the Shelby County Self-Study of Elememtary Education. Much time was spent in developing methods of gathering data so that accurate information would be available. Educational goals were established, and after many hours of study it was decided the grade school be centered in Panama, and the Portsmouth students bused to Panama. The Portsmouth school was closed, and the school is now known as St. Mary's Regional School. Portsmouth, Panama, and Westphalia students attend and are taught by Benedictine Sisters, the pastors of the parishes, and lay teachers. St. Mary's School at Portsmouth is now used for high school and grade school religious education classes, the high school on Wednesday nights and the grade school on Sunday after Mass.

A celebration marking the 1500th Anniversary of the Benedictines around the world was held at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, on November 23, 1980. A vesper service, and a slide presentation of the history of the Benedictines in Southwest Iowa was held. A social hour followed in the Parish Hall with many of the sisters present who had taught in the area schools or who were natives of the area parishes. The Benedictine Sisters served St. Mary's School from 1907-1972 and still continue to teach St. Mary's students attending the regional school. We now have two Benedictines Sisters serving St. Mary's and other parishes in the county as school religious education resource persons.

As we can see, the educational needs of Portsmouth and Cass Township were adequately met. The many changes from Pioneer days to the present time were a great challenge to the many residents, who diligently studied the many proposals and facts as presented to them, and made decisions affecting the present. Only future generations will be able to judge whether the decisions were right or wrong.

School Memories

Memories of Valden E. Leythman of the Leland Grove School District of Cass Township from 1906-1914, show that the old school also served as the church of the R.L.D.S. This school house was located about a mile and one half south of Portsmouth. Valden Leythman enrolled in September, 1906 at the age of seven and completed eight years, then attended one year of high school in Portsmouth.

Leland Grove School-Lena Dohrman(Teacher) First Row-Otto Leytham, Norris voge, Victor Christensen, Bernard Dohrman, Merle Hall, Harold Bullard, Dallas Voge
Second Row-Katie Christensen, Opal Voge, Marceda Dohrman, Lora Bullard, Mildred Hall, Gladys Bullard, Ruthie Leytham, Alice Voge, Martin Boy, Lillie Martin.
Third Row-Richard Hammes, Valden Leytham, Fred Hammes, Hazel Hughes, Elda Hall, Alice Martin, Nellie Bullard, Verna Hall

He lived on several farms in the Leland Grove District. The teachers he remembers were Marie Albertus, Nina Leythman, Marie Monahan, Ethel Lawson, Dora Dohrman, Lena Dohrman, and Margaret Flynn. It was a big school, 25 pupils, with more in the winter term when the older boys attended.

Some of the happy memories of the school are skating on the Mosquito, also descending its banks from the school yard by tree branches. (The creek bordered the school yard in those days.) A leaf roofed house was built in the corner of the school yard, only to have a farmer take two hayrack loads over the weekend for hog bedding. Box suppers with programs and picnics to end the school year were held.

Margaret Jurschak writes about the Rural School District No. 3 located two and one half miles northwest of Portsmouth which served as the background for the education of the Peter Jurschak, Sr. family. Mrs. Margaret Jurschak, wife of Peter Jurschak, attended this school during her childhood in the 1890's. The seven Jurschak children all attended this school until the completion of the eighth grade. In 1925 Marie Ann Jurschak started her teaching career there. Margaret Jurschak took over in 1931. Later, Gertrude Jurschak taught for one year. Frances was a substitute teacher at the school. During the time of the Jurschak teachers, their father was director until 1964 when his son John took over. At one time, Margaret taught eight nieces and nephews and five cousins. In the late 1960's the school consolidated with the Harlan District and the No. 3 school closed. The little white school is memory now.

Cass No. 3
Row 1: Cindy Stein, Jerry, Joan and Marlene Jurschak
Row 2: Mary Stein, Jean Jurschak, Bernard Stein, Jim and Gwen Jurschak, Margaret Jurschak, teacher.
Row 3: John and Karen Jurschak, Cecelia Stein, Marilyn Jurschak, Joe Stein.

Other school memories are corn-picking vacation every fall for one to three weeks, until the advent of the mechanical corn picker, so the children could help harvest the corn. With inadequate water at some of the schools, teachers were paid extra to "carry water" for school use from their homes. Teachers not living close to the school they taught sometimes walked and if too far, boarded during the week with families living close to the schools. The major occurrences during the school year were the Christmas programs and the school picnics on the last day of school.

Did You Know?

A skating rink was built in 1884.

St. Mary's Alumni

Following is a list of the graduates from St. Mary's High School Portsmouth. The class of 1919 was the first class to graduate from the 12th grade and the class of 1964 was the last class to graduate.

Class of 1919
Marie Bendon Kruger
Albert Ohlinger

Class of 1920
Mary Coughlin Craven

Class of 1921
Hazel Bendon Gau
Helen Monahan Rosenthal
Clara Powers Rodgers

Class of 1922
Lawrence Nash

Class of 1923
Alice Hughes Gibson
Pauline Monahan Wegener
Frances Powers Trierweiler
Margaret Sondag Rosman
Nicholas Sondag

Class of 1924
No Graduates Known

Class of 1925
Elva Bendon White
Rose Coughlin Leuck
Eva Frederick
Hilda Mester Von Tersch
Jeff Nash

Class of 1926
Ann Coughlin Potter
Gertrude Leinen Huebert
Verna Miller Kenkel
Mary Wehr Schuster

Class of 1927
Elizabeth Coughlin Wolf
Rosalia Coughlin
Peter Ohlinger

Class of 1928
Leo Book
Bernice Herkenrath Rogers
Theodora Leinen Rosenthal
Emma Ohlinger Monahan
Zeno Reinig
Eldred Rosenthal
Veronica Wehr White
Marita Yunck

Class of 1929
Dorothy Leinen Williams
Harold McAndrews
Devota Mester Avis
Cecil Monahan
Leonard Sondag
Marie Sondag

Class of 1930
Leo Coughlin
Madeline Elder Ohlinger
Pauline Gau Howe
Gertrude Jurschak
Margaret Jurschak
Rose Kruger Rutherford
Catherine Leinen Wieging
Mildred Lucky Hill
Leo Ohlinger
Bernadette Rosenthal Zeiser
Margery Schwery Petsche
Dolores Sondag Megown

Class of 1931
Madge Olig Underwood
Francis Sondag
Claryce Wehr Sellars

Class of 1932
Rosalia Fuhs Kaufman
Bernard Herkenrath
Clair Hughes
John Jurschak
Clara Leinen Petersen
Veronica Mikels Klein
Anne Olig Hennes
Ambrose Wehr

Class of 1933
Paul Bendon
Leon Coughlin
Greg Gubbels
Lucille Herkenrath Jurschak
Margaret Leinen Mester
Marita Leinen Bendon
Leo McAndrews
Alfred Mester
Audrey Michels Kreutzer
Lorene Langenfeld (Sister Lourdes)
Alfred Ohlinger
Mildred Schwery Tarkington

Class of 1934
Rita Gau Barta
Art Collins
Armella Gubbels Monahan
Phil Herkenrath
Modesta Leinen Green
Delores Olig Herkenrath
Neil Ohlinger
Helen Peterson Anderson
Catherine Sondag Lach
Margaret Yunck

Class of 1935
Jim Coughlin
Floyd Feser
Glen Hughes
Joe Jurschak
Vernon Herkenrath
Agnes Leinen Hodapp
Ann Monahan Nash
Mary Ann Ohlinger Feser
Joe Olig
Pauline Peterson Maiwald
Mary Agnes Rosenthal Chase
Clifford Thomas

Class of 1936
Augusta Leinen Stamp
Ray Mikels
Doris Plambeck Rosenthal
Ted Sondag
Verda Thomas Brath

Class of 1937
Dorothy Burns Points
Pauline Daeges Sachs
Annabel Huebner Black
Irene Monahan Maxwell
John Olig
Helen Skalla Huebner

Class of 1938
Valera Herkenrath Gillette
Michael Leinen
John Ohlinger
Eugene Peterson
Msgr. Joseph Sondag

Class of 1939
Richard Case
Marjorie Feser Ohlinger
Herbert Funk
Bonnie Herkenrath Peterson
John Raymond
Robert Reinig
Rose Mary Rosenthal Lajba
Betty Schwery Zangerle
Lois Thomas
Anna White

Class of 1940
Joan Feser Gangestad
Mark Feser
Edna Daeges Becker
Robert Grote
Pauline Huebner Ohlinger
Laverne Lasher
Helen Leinen Stein
Edward McDonald
Ernest Ohlinger
Kathleen Pursell Kleffman
Edward Rosenthal
Ramona Slaven Leinen
Viola Wehr Harvey

Class of 1941
Frances Frederick Webber
Alfred Funk
Anna Leinen Kenny
Arlene Leinen Reinig
Mary Margaret Leinen Langer
Mary Helen Monahan Dixon
Sylvia Skalla Kepford
Loretta Slaven Bristol

Class of 1942
Harold Frederick
Margaret Daeges Underwood
Helen Huebner Leinen
Mildred Leinen Reinig
Eva Mikels Slaughter
Edward Pitsch
Marian Raymond Smith
Joe Reinig
Suzette Sondag Langenfeld

Class of 1943
Mildred Feser Lang
Father Joseph Kula
Art Leinen
Dolores Leinen Schmitz
Don Leinen
Evelyn Leinen Long
Eugene Jacobs
Charlotte Rosenthal Stewart
Nick Schechinger
Gerald Reinig
John Slaven

Class of 1944
Phyllis Bendon Pash
Eugene Case
Alvin Heller
Marian Huebner Pedersen
Paul Leinen
Delores Mikels Hicks
Jean Monahan Lowder
Theresa Reinig Krupicka
Velma Thielen Ring

Class of 1945
Donna Gau Buckley
Elaine Heller Buckley
Barbara Leinen Goodman
Virginia Leinen Reinig
Grace Pauley Ciolli
Mary Reinig Slaven
Eugene Schoemann
James Slaven
Marjorie Smith Madsen
Richard Sondag
Russell Stein
Deloris White Grutel

Class of 1946
Tom Case
Dorothy Frederick Kenkel
Raphael Grote
Rose Ann Leinen Slaven
Catherine Schechinger Rosenthal

Class of 1947
James Fuhs
Joseph Funk
Dorothy Gau Wolf
Leroy Grote
Mary Helen Heller Finken
Harold Huebner
Gerald Jacobs
Russell Lefeber
Bonita Pauley Stolz
Leo Rau
Cecilia Reinig Tunnell
Harold Thielen
Carmilita Schechinger Heese

Class of 1948
Francis Case
Jo Ann Fuhs Adams
Verdella Heller Schulte
Rose Mary Leinen Laing
Janette Pauley
Theresa Pitsch Wilwerding
Eugene Lefeber
Catherine Reinig Buman
Nola Schmidt Schiltz
Grace Schoemann Pauley
William Smith
Delores Thielen Dotzler

Class of 1949
Josephine Funk Arkfeld
Hilary Mae Grote Gaul
Rose Ann Heller Schnuettgen
Albert Katzer
Charles Kenkel
Bernard Leinen
Mary Ellen Leinen Reisz
Alma Rau Kramer
Rosa Lee Raymond Byrnes
Orma Schmidt Fieber
Barbara Sondag Heller
Donna White Wendt
Eldred Zimmerman

Class of 1950
Geraldine Andersen Koch
Joyce Feser Graeve
Richard Frederick
Joseph Katzer
Eugene Katzer
Richard Lefeber
Ursula Leinen Bruck
Father Paul Monahan
Kevin Pauley
Max Plambeck

Class of 1951
Kenneth Bendon
Michaela Brady Kirschbaum
Rita Fuhs Schaben
Cecelia Funk Wegner
Gerald Gubbels
Vianney Heller Thielen
Frederick Katzer
James Leinen
Melvin Pauley
Jeanette Rau Mikels
Alfred Reinig
Elaine Thielen Wendt
Geraldine Wehr Bentley
Ella Mae Zimmerman Schaben

Class of 1952
Eugene Gessert
Ernest Lefeber
Cleo Mae Leinen Lefeber
Orville Leinen
Richard Leinen
Phil Monahan
Eugene Reinig
Sister Lita Rau
Sister Josephine Schoemann
Rita Smith Schmitz
Helen Springman Miller
Veryl Wehr
Neil White

Class of 1953
Gerald Andersen
Joan Brady Heller
Arlene Fuhs Mahoney
Dean Gau
Vernon Gubbels
Don Heller
Jeanette Kenkel Bowen
Theresa Miller Kenkel
Neil Pauley
Donna Plambeck Norgaard
Martha Rau Mumm
Gemma Schechinger Sonderman
Joan Schmidt Leinen
Alvin Thielen

Class of 1954
Russell Book
Phil Herkenrath
Peg Jurschak Thielen
Harvey Leinen
Ronald Reinig
John Schoemann
Nick Thielen

Class of 1955
Laverne Andersen
Connie Arkfeld Gau
Mary Lou Fuhs Robb
Lois Gau Rosenow
Dorothy Gubbels Arkfeld
Margie Heller Monahan
Darlene Herkenrath Johnson
Verdella Lefeber Sidebottom
Eunice Leinen Blum
Joseph Leinen
Elaine Pursell Koch
Lloyd Pauley
Don Reinig
Cecelia Schoemann Langer
Richard Zimmerman

Class of 1956
Joan Bendon Olsen
Patricia Fuhs Smith
Darlene Heller Kenkel
Robert Leinen
Neil Monahan
Diane Pauley Still
Marlene Reinig Prososki
Frances Schmidt Bowen
Leon Schmidt
Joe Springman
John Wear
Neil Zimmerman

Class of 1957
Lolita Arkfeld Sonderman
Richard Cairney
Richard Herkenrath
Vernon Herkenrath
Maxine Jurschak Gau
Kathleen Lefeber Miller
Kenneth Sonderman
Monica Thielen Goeser
Janice Wingert Fischer

Class of 1958
William Andersen
Robert Cairney
Raymond Gubbels
Lois Leinen Book

Class of 1959

Maxine Sonderman Kenkel
Charles Wear
Francis Funk
Sharon Herkenrath Belder
Darlene Lefeber Bossen
Robert Lefeber
Verlee Leinen
Mary Petsche Raid
Lu Ann Schmidt Isaac
Darrell Sternberg
George Wear
Janice Zimmerman Marker

Class of 1960

Nick Bruck
John Cairney
Lawrence Gubbels
Rita Grund Nepple
Judy Jurschak Hicks
Marilyn Jurschak Stonier
Michael Leinen
Ronald Ohlinger
Robert Stein

Class of 1961

Joseph Fuhs
David Gross
Linda Herkenrath Bruck
Ronald Kleffman
Margie Lefeber Gorden
Kenneth Monahan
Terry Pauley
Donald Petsche
Donna Sonderman Heckert
Doris Thielen Olson
Larry Wehr
Orlyn Wingert

Class of 1962

James Bendon
Connie Bruck Leinen
Shirley Fuhs Bowen
Karen Hendricks Wehr
Jeanne Leinen Mueller
Mildred Leinen Brus
John Herkenrath
Dorothy Stein Gross
Raymond Thielen
William Wingert

Class of 1963

Shirley Gaul Hendricks
Alvin Kohl
Jane Leinen
Darrell Ohlinger
Dolores Reinig Gaeta
Gary Schmidt
Julie Schechinger Bulkeley
Alfred Stein
Judy Weihs Funk
Carolyn Zimmerman Mortensen

Class of 1964

Gary Book
Bill Bruck
Ron Bruck
Pat Cairney
Jeanne Gaul Bieker
Jane Herkenrath Malley
Bob Kleffman
Janet Leinen
Linda Leinen Daoust
Marilyn Leinen Carl
Marilyn Ohlinger Kohl
Bill Petsche
Rose Ann Reinig Cannella
Cindy Stein Chamberlain
Dave Sternberg

Eighth Grade Graduates

The last high school graduates were the class of 1964. The following names are the eighth grade graduates of St. Mary's Grade School from 1961-1978 when St. Mary's became a regional school at Panama.

Class of 1961

Carol Bruck
Ralph Cairney
Allen Feser
Jeanne Grote
JoAnn Hendricks
Joseph Kleffman
Lavonne Lefeber
Gene Leinen
Carolyn Ohlinger
Betty Reinig
Mary Reinig
Jack Schechinger
Jim Stein
Allen Stanley
Charles Thielen

Class of 1962

Bob Bruck
Janice Bruck
Neil Feser
Ron Gaul
Jerry Grote
Lloyd Grote
Ralph Kleffman
Mary Langenfeld
Paul Leinen
Richard Leinen
Jane Ohlinger
Kenneth Ohlinger
Neil Petsche
Judy Reinig
Marie Reinig
Mike Reinig
Barbara Stein
Gene Thielen
Robert Wingert

Class of 1963

Mary Bieker
Joyce Bruck
Julie Cairney
Linda Grote
Patricia Heller
Darlene Hendricks
Loretta Kleffman
Edward Leinen
Larry Reinig
Susan Reinig
Jolene Schechinger
John Slaven
Jennifer Smith
Beverly Sonderman
Albert Stein
Neil Sternberg
Gemma Thielen

Class of 1964

Carolyn Anastasi
Larry Gaul
Nancy Grote
Sharon Grote
John Kleffman
Patricia Kleffman
Joyce Leinen
Zita Leinen
Emily Ohlinger
Janice Ohlinger
Duane Reinig
Richard Reinig
Dennis Smith
Jim Sondag

Class of 1965

Laura Arkfeld
Peggy Assmann
Janice Anastasi
Rick Bruck
Duane Buckley
Doris Cogdill
Bill Feldman
John Feldman
Carole Feser
Michael Grote
Loree Goetz
Marcia Hayes
Karen Heller
Larry Hendricks
Anita Hoffman
Robert Hoffman
Rose Mary Kirlin
Bill Kleffman
Steve Kleffman
Jo Ann Klein
Dennis Koch
Jane Langenfeld
Lori Lefeber
Allen Leinen
Susan Leinen
Alice May
Joseph Mahlberg
Michael Monahan
Dean Muell
Jan Nowatzke
Tim Oppold
Janet Petsche
Joan Reinig
Laura Reinig
Ronnie Reinig
Theresa Reinig
Bob Schafer
Myron Schwery
Connie Skalla
Ann Slaven
Nan Smith
Linda Sondag
Jerry Stein
Pat Stein
Shirley Thielen
Ruth Wegner
Barry Wingert

Class of 1966

Mary Lou Arkfeld
Patty Assman
Dennis Buckley
Barbara Cairney
John Carey
Jerry Chamberlain
Tim Cogdill
Robert Feldman
Dean Finken
Carol Gaul
Gloria Grote
Mary Lou Grote
Richard Grote
Susan Herbst
Anthony Hoffman
Sarah Kleffman
Tom Kleffman
Irene Klein
Glen Koch
Peggy Kwapiszeski
Linda Lefeber
Dan Leuschen
Jan Leuschen
Betty Maiwald
Lois Mickels
Donna Monahan
John Ohlinger
Frankie Oppold
Marjorie Reinig
Joan Reisz
Robert Schmitz
Craig Schomer
Stanley Slaven
Roland Smith
Jeanne Sondag
Sandra Sonderman
Carl Stein
Michael Sullivan
James Tremel
Neil Wingert

Class of 1967

Duane Anastasi
Dan Arkfeld
Joan Bruck
Linda Goetz
Connie Grote
Joe Grote
Kathy Grote
Monica Hastert
Phyllis Hayes
Colleen Hendricks
Mary Lou Hoffman
Glen Kleffman
Mary Kleffman
Ken Kleffman
Don Langenfeld
Lois Lefeber
Martha Leinen
Ken Leinen
Tim Leinen
John Mahlberg
Denise Mickels
Dorothy Monahan
Peg Muell
Ella Reinig
Gene Reisz
Phil Reisz
Bill Schafer
Jill Schechinger
Mike Schwery
Jack Smith
Pat Smith
Linda Sonderman
Susan Wendt

Class of 1968

Theresa Bruck
Jane Blum
Mike Cairney
Mary Lou Chamberlain
Michael Croghan
John Fuhs
Julia Grote
Raymond Grote
Philip Gubbels
Gary Heller
Ron Hendricks
Ted Herbst
David Kleffman
Martha Kleffman
Jim Kwapiszeski
Robert Kwapiszeski
Mary Lu Leinen
Jeanne Leuschen
Lois May
Don Muell
Richard Ohlinger
Allan Reinig
Patricia Reinig
Greg Schmitz
Michael Schmitz
Tony Schoemann
Ken Slaven
Kit Smith
Randal Smith
Joseph Sondag
Ken Sondag
Bill Stein
Sandra Sternberg
Mary Thielen
Norma Wegner
Lucy Wendt
Larry Wingert
Mark Wingert
Wayne Wingert

Class of 1969

Patrick Arkfeld
James Bruck
Duane Chamberlain
Jane Chamberlain
Donald Croghan
Tim Greiner
James Herbst
Allen Hoffman
Michael Hoffman
Ann Hoffman
Marty Huebner
James Keane
Joan Kleffman
Lori Kleffman
Therese Kleffman
Colleen Kramer
Mark Kwapiszeski
Mary Kwapiszeski
Dan Lefeber
David Leinen
John Leinen
Jeff Mahlberg
Betty Mickels
Peggy Michels
Duane Nowatzke
Loretta Reinig
Tom Reinig
Carol Reisz
Tom Schaben
Barbara Slaven
Lolita Schmitz
Joe Stein
Sarah Stinn
Dennis Tremel
Sue Ellen Wingert

Class of 1970

Brian Arkfeld
Tim Arkfeld
Duane Assmann
Deborah Blum
Jolene Bruck
Eileen Feldman
Janet Fuhs
Dan Goetz
Leona Grote
Ruth Ann Grote
Ron Heller
Peg Keane
Steve Kenkel
Ronald Kloewer
Mary Ann Koch
Jerry Kwapiszeski
John Langenfeld
Diane Lefeber
Carol Leinen
Mike Maiwald
Lyle Mikels
Kathy Miller
Margaret Mages
Pat Muell
Rose Ohlinger
Rose Marie Ohlinger
Galen Pauley
Phyllis Reisz
Lois Reinig
Debra Schaben
Dave Sondag
Kathy Sondag
Don Stein
Julie Stein
Tim Smith
Barry Schafer

Steve Schoemann
Bill Sullivan
Terry Tremel
Karen Wendt
John Wendt

Class of 1971

Diane Blum
Anita Blum
Deb Bruck
Diane Buckley
Mike Carey
Randy Chamberlain
Marilyn Croghan
Randy Fuhs
Mary Lou Gubbels
Bob Heller
Dan Hoffman
Cindy Keane
Dick Keane
Debra Kloewer
Sharon Kloewer
Donna Leinen
Jerry Mahlberg
Lynn Mikels
Randy Miller
Dave Muell
Alice Ohlinger
Melinda Pauley
Roxanne Pauley
Jim Reinig
Joan Reinig
Deb Reisz
Peg Reisz
Jim Schmitz
Janet Schmitz
Larry Schaben
Margaret Schwery
Pat Schwery
Gail Smith
Ken Stein
Richard Stessman
Kathy Vogelzang
Joan Wingert

Class of 1972

Jane Arkfeld
Joanne Arkfeld
Vivian Arkfeld
Don Assman
Bob Blum
Sharon Blum
John Bruck
Janet Bruck
Margaret Croghan
Phil Croghan
Dan Fuhs
Claudia Gardner
Brian Hoffman
Jerry Hoffman
Julie Huebner
Leo Kleffman
Michael Kleffman
Cindy Kloewer
Lois Kloewer
Sandy Lefeber
Gary Leinen
Tom Leinen
George Leuschen
Jean Mages
Matt Mahlberg
Susan Maiwald
Nick May
Denise Mikels
Jayne Mikels
Dave Miller
Dan Muell
Denise Pauley
Karen Reinig
Karla Reisz
Connie Schaben
Greg Schoemann
Andy Schwery
John Schwery
Ron Scollard
Carol Slaven
Maria Sullivan
Jeff Thuelen
Sharon Vogelzang
Larry Wendt
Peggy Wingert
Mike Wingert

Class of 1973

Michael Blum
Brenda Blum
Bob Carey
Diane Chamberlain
John Chamberlain
Barbara Croghan
Carol Fuhs
Rick Gau
John Heller
Joe Keane
Judy Kenkel
Paul Kleffman
Danny Kloewer
Connie Lefeber
Patty Leinen
Jeff Leinen
Doug Leuschen
Betty Mages
Dean Mikels
Bev Miller
Pam Muell
David Ohlinger
Kristie Pauley
Pam Pauley
Connie Rau
Tom Reinig
Sharon Reinig
Peg Schmitz
Dave Schoemann
Michael Schwery
Tom Schwery
Cathy Slaven
Jay Smith
Valerie Smith
Carol Sondag
Larry Stein
Jennifer Stinn
Mike Thuelen
Tom Tremel
Jeff Weihs

Class of 1974

Phil Arkfeld
Lawrence Assman
Randy Bruck
Theresa Croghan
David Gau
Geralyn Grote
Joann Heller
Larry Keane
David Keane
Janet Kleffman
Jackie Lapke
Lori Leinen
Nick Leinen
Deb Leinen
Diane Mikels
Cheryl Mikels
Steve Ohlinger
Joan Rau
Vince Reinig
June Schafer
Kenneth Schwery
Bill Schwery
Geri Smith
Edward Sondag
Susan Sondag
Paul Stein
Mary Wingert

Class of 1975

Jayme Arkfeld
Robert Croghan
Rich Fuhs
Janel Gau
Carol Goetz
Jackie Heller
Dennis Huebert
Lisa Keane
Diane Keane
Gina Kloewer
Cheryl Lefeber
Karla Leinen
Bonnie Leinen
Diane McDermott
Margie Miller
Susan Muell
Doug Pauley
Rhonda Rau
Jim Reinig
Francene Reisz
James D. Schwery
Roger Schwery
Dan Smith
Jerry Sondag
Jim Stessman
Angela Schoemann
Paul Waltz
Peg Wendt
Paul Wingert

Class of 1976

Norma Assman
Tom Blum
Denise Buckley
Richard Croghan

Marita Grote
Maxine Grote
Janet Keane
Bernie Kleffman
Dean Kloewer
Bill Kloewer
Jolene Lapke
Dean Lefeber
Steve Leinen
Anne Leinen
Cheryl Leinen
Phil McDermott
Mary Pat Mahlberg
Cathy Monahan
Marvin Maiwald
Joann Muell
Dan Pauley
Scott Pauley
Theresa Reinig
Joy Schafer
Pat Schoemann
Betty Schwery
Doug Schwery
Nancy Schwery
Jeannie Smith
Mary Stein
Colleen Waltz
Sandra Wingert

Class of 1977

Denise Arkfeld
Sandy Arkfeld
Scott Assmann
Jackie Blum
Francis Croghan
Mike Feldman
Gene Fuhs
Bob Gardner
Julie Gau
Susie Gubbels
Paul Heller
Pat Huebner
Deb Huebert
Mark Keane
Dennis Kloewer
Ann Langenfeld
Don Mages
Kenny May
Donna Mikels
Sue Mikels
Cindy Monahan
Michelle Pauley
Ron Ratigan
Dan Reinig
Janet Reinig
Kevin Reisz
John Schmitz
Bill Slaven
Don Sondag
Maurice Stinn
JoAnn Sullivan
Paul Thuelen
Cheryl Waltz
Bev Wendt
Michelle Wingert

Class of 1978

Don Fuhs
Susan Funk
Rachele Gau
John Goetz
Cheri Heller
Diane Huebert
Lisa Kohles
Julie Lapke
Jeff Leinen
Peter Leinen
Richard McDermott
Joe Miller
Dale Muell
Barbara Pauley
Pat Pauley
Rita Reinig
Barbara Schoemann
Gene Schwery
Steven Schwery
Bill Sondag
Patty Sondag
Pat Stessman
Tim Waltz
Jim Weihs

Gary Schnack's first day of school. Grant Green, school bus driver.

St. Mary's High School cheerleaders, Connie Arkfeld, Lois Gau, Marge Heller, Peggy Jurschak, Darlene Herkenrath.

Sister Pancratia with graduates Rosa Lee Raymond, Mary Ellen Leinen, Barbara Sondag and Rose Ann Heller - 1949.

Do you remember....

Plays and programs in school - school picnics.

The hedges from the Sister's house to the cemetery dividing the boy's and girl's playgrounds.

Cleaning the blackboards and erasers after school. The drinking water fountain and the drinking water buckets on the playgrounds at school.

1932-1982-50th Anniversary of Graduation-St. Mary's High School Fr. Failenschmid, Anne Olig, John Jurschak, Clara Leinen, Bernard Herkenrath, Rosalia Fuhs, Clair Hughes, Veronica Mikels, Ambrose Wehr.

1957-1982-25th Anniversary of Graduation-St. Mary's High School

The last first grade class taught in the Portsmouth St. Mary's School-1966-1967.
R. 1: Mark Grote, Ed Sondag, Ken Schwery, Paul Stein.
R. 2: Jeff Nowatzke, Marv Hoffman, Phil Arkfeld. Larry Assman, Nick Leinen, Vince Reinig, Ralph Kramer, Gary Gubbels, Larry Keane.
R. 3: David Grote Curt Senyard, Steve Ohlinger, Sheryl Mikels, Jackie Lapke, Mary Wingert, Sandy Nowatzke, Sharon Bruck, Geri Smith, Bob Grote, Dave Keane
R. 4: Dennis Schwery, Kathy Mahlberg, Janet Kleffman, Joann Heller, June Schafer, Deb Leinen, Theresa Greiner, Theresa Croghan, Shirley Anastasi, Geralyn Grote, Susan Sondag, Randy Bruck, Kate Plambeck, teacher.

Junior and Senior Classes of St. Mary's High School 1932-1933 (note the uniforms the girls are wearing).
Row 1: Catherine Sondag, Margaret Yunck, Rita Gau, Lucille Herkenrath, Lorene Langenfeld, Audrey Mikels, Delores Olig, Armella Gubbels.
Row 2: Mildred Schwery, Margaret Leinen, Modesta Leinen, Marita Leinen, Helen Petersen, Bernice Reinig, Irene Ratigan.
Row 3: Greg Gubbels, Leo McAndrews, Leon "Irish" Coughlin, Alfred Mester, Paul Bendon.
Row 4: Neil Ohlinger, Phil Herkenrath, Alfred Ohlinger, Prof. Harold Crawford.

St. Mary's High School Students 1941-1942

Students from St. Mary's Parish that were graudates of area high schools in 1981.
R. 1: Cheri Waltz, Donna Mikels, Brenda Neubauer, Cindy Monahan, Michelle Pauley, Deanne Pauley, R. 2: Julie Gau, Janet Reinig, Ann Langenfeld, Father Vince Rosonke, Charlene Wilke, Lori Jenkins, Sue Mikels. R. 3: Jim Book, John Schmitz, Bill Slaven, Don Dondag, Pat Huebner, Gene Fuhs. R. 4: Dan Reinig, Paul Heller, Randy Lefeber.

Organizations and Patriotic Observances

Original Fire Bell decorated for the Bicentennial - 1976.

Kids riding on fire truck.

American Legion Color Guard and Firing Squad marching up the church hill. Memorial Day - 1981.

Portsmouth Volunteer Fire Department

A meeting on Oct. 8, 1895 was called by Mayor C.A. Monahan to organize a volunteer hose company, which was to be called Portsmouth Hose Company, No. One, of the Volunteer Fire Dept. of the town of Portsmouth, Shelby County, Iowa. Names were taken of all who wished to be members or to lend aid. At a later meeting on Oct. 14, 1895 the necessary constitution and by-laws for the Hose Co. were read and revisions discussed and passed upon. It was decided to limit the number of active members of the Hose Co. to twenty men who were as follows: C.A. Monahan, J.A. Albertus, Albert Walker, John Korth Jr., F.C. Dirns, Wm. Hible, S.B. Hack, Jas. Hilburn, John Herkenrath, Chas. Hammerand, Frank Grund, Harry Gibson, John Wehr, Alois Kalous, W.C. Strauss, W.D. Hall, J.W. Dahlheimer, Max Drubner, Peter Frederick, Oscar Hansen.

John Dahlheimer was elected foreman with W.D. Hall as ass't foreman. F.C. Dirns was made secretary and Albert Walker, treasurer.

At the Oct.21, 1895 meeting the by-laws were read and adopted as read, or amended and thus adopted. One amendment read, "That upon roll call, eleven members shall constitute a quorum." Another read, "Each and every member not present during any meeting without a reasonable excuse shall be fined five cents."

On Jan. 8, 1896, a dance was held to raise funds. It was not noted how much money they took in on admissions, but the expenses were: Sunset Club Orch. and caller $10.00; hall rent $5.00; 150 tickets printed .75; 100 advertising bills $2.00; ribbon to decorate hall .60. They had a net profit of $10.15.

At the May 3, 1898 meeting it was decided to purchase a 500 pound fire bell at fifteen and one-half-cents per pound, from the hy Stuckstede B.F. Co. at St. Louis, Mo. The Hose Co. was to pay $50.00 and the town was to pay $30.00 and assume the expense of hanging the bell in the hose house when it arrived. The labor and materials for hanging the bell came to $10.15 This same bell, long since replaced by a siren, now hangs in front of the present fire house.

The signals for the bell were to be as follows: 1 toll with a long pause... Public Sorrow; 1-2... Council Meeting; 1-2-3... last call; 2-1... Hose Meeting; 2-1-3... last call; 3 tolls with pause... Public joy; continuous tolling... FIRE.

On July 4, 1905 the Hose Co. had a "Firemans Grand Celebration" complete with a sunrise start of "shooting anvils," followed by a parade, ballgames, German Band, singing and a Programme at the city park with Speaker of the Day, Hon. S.B. Wadsworth, a dance and the traditional fireworks. Income was $244.50, expenses: $200.77, leaving a profit of $43.73 which was used to purchase equipment.

S.B. Hack was elected foreman in 1897, followed by W.D. Hall in 1898, and John Wehr in 1901. In 1904 John Herkenrath was elected foreman. John served continuously as foreman and chief from 1904 until he retired from the active force in 1956. John was active in organizing the original Hose Co. and served a total of 61 years on the force, 52 of those years as chief. He remained an honorary member of the Portsmouth Fire Dept. until his death, June 11, 1972.

Portsmouth Hose Team of 1904

Front Row: Elmer Scroggin, John Hammerand, Albert Walker, Charles Walker, Herb Burkholder, John Wehr, John Dahlheimer, Chas. Monahan. Back Row: William Hammerand, John Herkenrath, John M. Leinen, Geo. Battey, Math Herkenrath, Bill Thomas.

In the early 1900's when the hose cart was the only fire fighting equipment available it was necessary, or at least helpful, to be a good sprinter in order to be a member of the volunteer fire department. The volunteers of Portsmouth took pride in their speed and competed with other firemen from the other towns. In the early 1900's the State Fireman's Convention was held in Harlan and one of the features was a 300 yard race with the hose cart being pulled by 18 men. The Portsmouth team ran the distance in 31 3/5 seconds which was then considered to be a world's record.

The first motorized equipment was acquired in 1923 when a Model T Ford truck was purchased. In 1930 a Chevrolet truck was purchased. The firefighting equipment was stored in the city hall, a building erected in 1925 at a cost of $4000. The new fire station was built in 1963.This station was constructed as a result of an election held in 1959 to determine if a township fire district should be formed and fire equipment purchased with no tax money. Prior to this time the department was maintained by donations and benefits. The vote was favorable and the lot was purchased and construction began. This building now houses a red 1946 Chevrolet fire truck, a red 1962 International fire truck and a yellow 1974 International fire truck, plus a 1973 Dodge Kary Van used to haul equipment to fires. Back in the corner behind the newer equipment sits the old hose cart, waiting, just in case it might still be needed.

Old Fire Truck-1930

There have been many heavy property losses throughout the years the Portsmouth Volunteers have answered the fire calls, but undoubtedly the saddest experience for the firemen and the community was the fire of March 5, 1955, which claimed the lives of five children in Portsmouth. Four of the children were the pre-school age children of Mr. & Mrs. John Raymond, and the fifth was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kleffman who was babysitting with the Raymond children.

The Portsmouth Volunteer Fire Department now numbers 30 members who respond to the siren at any time of day or night to combat fires or give help at the scene of an accident. Within three to five minutes after the siren sounds the trucks are on their way. Mutual aid is exchanged as needed with neighboring towns. Meetings are held once a month as called by the chief. During winter months they attend Southwest Iowa Fire and Rescue Ass'n meetings where they have films and speakers presenting the latest in fire fighting equipment and techniques. Once a year there is a dinner held in the Legion Hall for all the firemen, honorary members, trustees and wives.

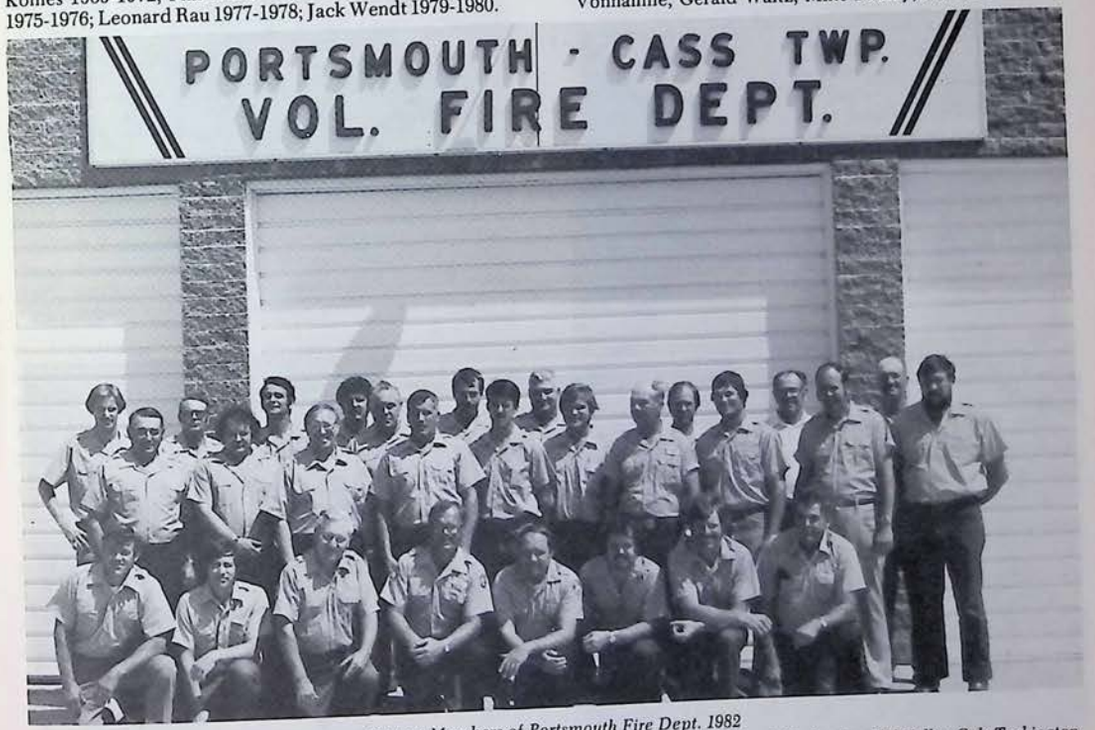
The following men have served as Fire Chief through the years. Walt Reisz 1956-1962; Gerald Waltz 1963-1964; Rich Heller 1965-1966; Lester Schmitz 1967-1968; Gary Kohles 1969-1972; Phil Heller 1973-1974; Marvin Kenkel 1975-1976; Leonard Rau 1977-1978; Jack Wendt 1979-1980.

The Oldest and the Newest
Original Hose Care-1974 International Truck

Gary Kohles is the present Chief and Ken Leinen is Ass't Chief.

Trustees are Nick A. Bruck, Jim Grote and Bob Lefeber.

Present members of the department are Rich Leinen, Rich Heller, Phil Heller, Marv Kenkel, Don Muell, Ken Slaven, Paul Leinen Sr., Marv Leinen, Paul Leinen, Jr., Ralph Kramer, Robert Grote, Frank Funk, Allan Vonnahme, Gerald Waltz, Mike Pauley, Lester Schmitz,



Present Members of Portsmouth Fire Dept. 1982

Front row: Rich Heller, Mike Grote, Bob Grote, Gary Kohles, Lester Schmitz, Galen Pauley, Marv Leinen, Leonard Rau. 2nd Row: Marvin Kenkel, Dan Lefeber, Gerald Waltz, Phil Gau, Don Muell, Ken Slaven, Rich Leinen, Rich Ohlinger, Ron Reinig, Frank Funk. Back row: Ken Leinen, Mike Pauley, Phil Heller, Gale Tarkington, Ralph Kramer, Ron Knauss, Jack Wendt, Paul Leinen Jr., Paul Leinen Sr., Don Leinen. Not present Al Vonnahme.

Ron Knauss, Ron Reinig, Mike Grote, Jack Wendt, Phil Gau, Don Leinen, Gale Tarkington, Galen Pauley, Leonard Rau, Dan Lefeber, Rich Ohlinger, Ken Leinen, Gary Kohles, Ken Monahan.

Living Honorary Members are Joe F. Reinig, Ray Van Slyke, Ambrose Wehr, Mike Neubauer, Clair Galiher, Francis (Red) Leinen, Phil Herkenrath, Al Skalla, Louis Leinen, N.M. Schechinger.

Some Members of Portsmouth Fire Dept-1949
Phil Herkenrath, Ray Van Slyke, Willard Schechinger, Gilbert Olsen, John Herkenrath, Frank Gessert Jr., Joe Gau, Dwayne LaSourd.

Volunteer Fire Dept. Members-Fire House Trucks and Equipment (1982)

Several Members of Fire Dept. 1920's and 1930's
Tony (Pal) Herkenrath, Hubert Von Tersch, Harry McAndrews, Dey Weygint, John Herkenrath

Portsmouth Volunteer Fire Department-1976
Marv Kenkel, Don Leinen, Gary Kohles, Ron Reinig, Bob Grote, Phil Gau, Jack Wendt, Gerald Waltz, Galen Pauley, Frank Gessert, Lester Schmitz, Rich Leinen, Gary Wilke, Gene Reinig, Paul Leinen Jr., Mike Pauley, Francis Leinen, Al Vonnahme, Phil Heller.

Some Members of Portsmouth Fire Dept. 1975
Louie Leinen, Paul Leinen Jr., Frank Gessert, Marvin Kenkel, Gary Kohles, Ralph Kramer, Mike Neubauer, Francis Leinen, Gene Reinig, Phil Heller.

American Legion

The American Legion was chartered by Congress on September 16, 1919. In 1920 the Portsmouth American Legion Post No. 547 was organized and the membership included the service men who did business in Portsmouth and the surrounding territory. The Post was named after John H. Ohlinger who was killed in action in World War I. John Reinig died on Armistice Day and John Dahlheimer died of pneumonia in England.

John H. Ohlinger
American Legion Post No. 547 named in his honor.

The charter members were as follows:

Don Scroggins	John Heimerman
Michael M. Sondag	Michael Schmidt
Jacob Kleffman	Michael Stein
Henry W. Wittrams	William Dalhiemer
Julius J. Wiese	Pat R. Monahan
Ray Legan	August Kreatesman
Roy Legan	John J. Leinen
John L. Frederick	James McAndrews
Andrew Michalski	Albert A.Allen
Charles Gallagher	William Parkinson
Henry H. Slaven	Henry W. Reinig
Anthony McAndrews	John Fuhs
Louis Raymond	Albert L. Clark
Gilbert Olsen	

The World War I charter members who are still living are John Leinen and Julius J. Wiese.

The original officers were as follows:

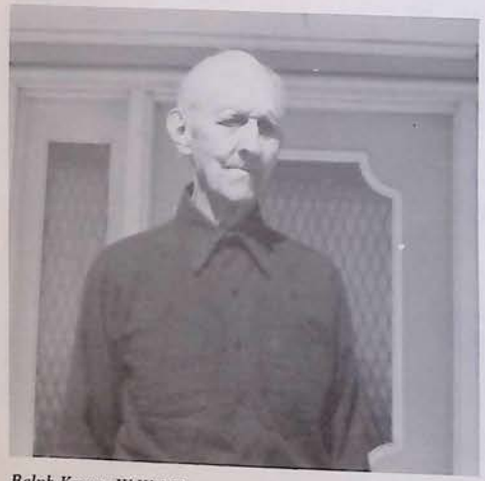
Post Commander	Don Scroggins
Vice Commander	Charles Gallagher
Adjutant Commander	Pat R. Monahan
Sgt. of Arms	Anthony McAndrews
Historian	Mike Sondag
Chaplain	Henry Slaven

John J. Leinen-W.W.I Veteran
Surviving Charter Member of American Legion Post No. 547

Julius Wiese-W.W.I Veteran
Surviving Charter Member of American Legion Post No. 547

John Pitsch-W.W.1 Veteran

Archie Hillyer-W.W.1 Veteran



Ralph Kruger-W.W.1 Veteran

The first meetings were held in the Modern Woodmen of America building where the present American Legion building is now standing. In about 1922 the Woodmen building burnt down and the Legion Hall was built in 1925, and dedicated on June 11 of that year. Enough money was raised through donations from the legion members to begin the building and the rest of the money was borrowed from the Bank. During the depression and hard times of the thirties the legion could not make the payments and the Bank nearly foreclosed. The local people were asked for contributions even if they did not belong to the legion.

American Legion Hall

The financial crisis was met and the mortgage was paid off in the early forties. The hall was remodeled several times and renovated in the sixties. It was used for social events and the high school basketball team and the town team played in the building until the Community Hall was built on the church grounds.

The first activities of the Legion were to sponsor dances, moving picture shows once a week, and the practice of going to both cemeteries, St. Mary's Catholic and Cass Township for graveside services. "Legion Roll" was mostly Civil War veterans for a period of time. Graveside Legion services were held for both Confederate and Union Soldiers of the Civil War. The Portsmouth Post affiliated with the County, State, and National organizations of the American Legion.

Memorial Day Services - 1981 St. Mary's Cemetery.
Rich Lefeber, Father Vince, Rich Heller.
Jack Slaven calling the Roll of deceased veterans.

Legion Junior baseball was organized in 1929 with John "Frisch" Leinen as coach and Charles Gallagher as manager, with the age limit of 17. They could play at any age downward from that age. The Legion ballpark where they played ball was in the south end of Portsmouth. There were several boys who were good players. Some of the players were Phil Herkenrath, "Bun" Herkenrath, Alfred Ohlinger, Leon Coughlin, Pat McAndrews, Ambrose Wehr, Francis Sondag, John Jurschak, Robert Skalla, Francis White, Neil Ohlinger, and Paul Bendon.

1930 Junior Legion Championship Baseball Team.
Kneeling: Leon (Irish) Coughlin and Paul Bendon.
Standing: Ambrose Wehr, Frank White, John Jurschak, Leo (Pat) McAndrews, Bernard (Bun) Herkenrath, John (Frisch) Leinen (Coach), Phil Herkenrath, Norbert Britten, Neil Ohlinger, Alfred (Chick) Ohlinger and Francis Sondag.

These men coached and managed teams for ten years and played other neighboring towns. In 1930 the team won the district tournament and played Des Moines in the state tournament. The Legion was responsible for supplying the teams with the equipment that they needed and sometimes it was hard to keep up the equipment because of the hard times.

Managers after Charlie Gallagher and John Leinen were - Ernie Ohlinger, Louie Leinen and M.T. Leinen. Portsmouth won the Shelby County League Championship in 1950 and 1951, Ernie Ohlinger Manager - 1952 with Louie Leinen as Manager - 1956 - M.T. Leinen Manager. In 1960 Portsmouth won the 7th District Tournament - with M.T. Leinen Manager. This was the last Junior Legion Baseball Team. Now all the youth baseball is under the Shelby County Little League Program, and is sponsored by the Portsmouth Athletic Association. In the July - 1930 Tournament, the Portsmouth Legion played Creston at Portsmouth. All threshing runs in the area stopped that afternoon to attend the game. This was one of the largest crowds ever to attend a ball game at Portsmouth.

The present day American Legion membership is composed of Veterans of World War II, Korean and Viet Nam conflicts as well as the World War I Veterans. The present membership of the Portsmouth Post is sixty-two paid members.

The Portsmouth Post members have served the County and State organizations in various capacities. Don Scroggins, the first Post Commander represented Shelby County at the District meeting in Council Bluffs and became the first County Commander. Other Post County Commanders of the past are Alvin Heller, Theodore Sondag, Donald Leinen, and Jim Grote. Charles Gallagher

1950 Junior Legion League Champs.
Row 1: Ernie Lefeber, Vernon Gubbels, Dean Gau, Phil Herkenrath Jr., Phil Monahan, Orv Leinen, Veral Wehr and Richard Leinen.
Row 2: Ernie Ohlinger (Manager), Fred Katzer, Gerald Andersen, Father Paul Monahan, Gene Gessert, Gene Reinig and Jim Leinen.

was the seventh district baseball chairman in the mid thirties. Alvin Heller has served as seventh district Commander, State Vice Commander, and for three years served as State membership chairman responsible for 100,000 members.

The Portsmouth Legion Post has always been active. They still continue to help with the baseball program, visit both cemeteries on Memorial Day, and promote patriotic observance of Flag Day and 4th of July. When the tornado of 1925 devastated the area north of Persia and Yorkshire and the tornado of 1940 ravaged the Portsmouth area, the Seventh District including the Portsmouth Post organized the cleanup activities. In 1967 the Legion presented St. Mary's School with a flag in a ceremony and the flag is still being used. The Post also sends a boy to Boy's State every year.

Raising Flag at St. Mary's School.
Portsmouth - 1967.

The Portsmouth John H. Ohlinger Post has always had as its motto the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion: "For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to

Members of John H. Ohlinger American Legion Post No. 547
Memorial Day - 1981.

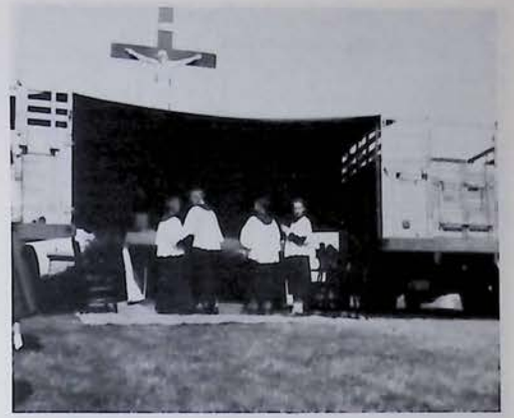
Row 1: Rich Heller, Jim Grote, Rich Sondag, Mike Grote, Ron Bruck, Gene Schoemann, Ed Miller.
Row 2: John Pitsch, John Leinen, Paul Leinen, Bob Bruck, Gerald Waltz, Fred Grote, Bob Grote.
Row 3: Alfred Greiner, Gerald Huebert, Mike Bruck, Bill Buckley, Louis Leinen, Rich Bruck.
Row 4: Phil Herkenrath, Harold Huebner, Al Reinig, Duane Reinig, Stan Slaven, Ted Sondag, Don Leinen, Al Heller, Dick Mikels, Bob Reinig, Ernie Ohlinger, Mel Sporrer.

preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good-will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice; freedom and democracy ; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Color Guard and Firing Squad at St. Mary's Cemetery - Memorial Day 1946.

Honoring the War Veterans at the Veterans Monument in the Town Park - Memorial Day - 1946.
Color Guard: Harold Leinen, Alvin Heller, Harold Frederick and Eugene Jacobs. Commander, Ted Sondag (On Steps).

Field Mass - Memorial Day - 1955. St. Mary's Cemetery.



Field Mass - Memorial Day - 1955. St. Mary's Cemetery.

Veterans Day Banquet - 1963

American Legion Color Guard
Earling, Iowa Centennial Parade - 1981.
F. Leo Rau, Mel Sporrer, Duane Reinig, Ted Sondag. B. Jim Grote and Alvin Heller.

Bruck Brothers Bowling Team - Neil, Nick, Bill, Mark and Mike -All Navy Veterans. They have gone to the American Legion State Bowling Tournament every year since 1956.

Commanders and Adjutants

1945
Fred Clausen - Comm.
Charles Gallagher - Adj.

1946
Ted Sondag - Comm.
Herbert Funk - Adj.

1947
Robert Reinig - Comm.
Ernest Ohlinger - Adj.

1948
Louis Leinen - Comm.
Jack Slaven - Adj.

1949
Jim Slaven - Comm.
Alvin Heller - Adj.

1950
Fred Grote - Comm.
Alvin Heller - Adj.

1951
Mike Schmidt - Comm.
Louis Leinen - Adj.

1952
Nick Bruck - Comm.
Philip Herkenrath - Adj.

1953 & 1954
Ernest Ohlinger - Comm.
Don Leinen - Adj.

1955
Jack Slaven - Comm.
Robert Grote - Adj.

1956
Richard Sondag - Comm.
Eugene Schoeman - Adj.

1957-1958
Don Leinen - Comm.
Rich Lefeber - Adj.

1958-1959
Al Heller - Comm.
Rich Lefeber - Adj.

1959-1960
Bob Grote - Comm.
Rich Heller - Adj.

1960-1961
Mike Bruck - Comm.
Bob Reinig - Adj.

1961-1962
Jim Grote - Comm.
Gerald Waltz - Adj.

1962-1963
Gene Smith - Comm.
Harold Huebner - Adj.

1963-1964
Phil Gau - Comm.
Dick Mikels - Adj.

1964-1965
Ed Miller - Comm.
Bernie Leinen - Adj.

1965-1966
Gerald Schiltz - Comm.
Gene Lefeber - Adj.

1966-1967
Al Reinig - Comm.
Bill Buckley - Adj.

1967-1968
Rich Lefeber - Comm.
Harold Leinen - Adj.

1968-1969
Dick Mikels - Comm.
Phil Gau - Adj.

1969-1970
Ed Pitsch - Comm.
Jack Slaven - Adj.

1970-1971
Gene Schoeman - Comm.
Mike Bruck - Adj.

1971-1972
George Wear - Comm.

1972-1973
Gary Wilke - Comm.
Ron Bruck - Adj.

1973-1974
Paul Leinen - Comm.

1974-1975
Phil Gau - Comm.
Rich Heller - Adj.

1975-1976
Nick Bruck - Comm.
Bob Grote - Adj.

1976-1977
Bob Reinig - Comm.
Al Reinig - Adj.

1977-1978
Al Heller - Comm.
Louie Leinen - Adj.

1978-1979
Al Heller - Comm.
Gene Lefeber - Adj.

1979-1980
Rich Sondag - Comm.
Dick Mikels - Adj.

1980-1981
Ted Sondag - Comm.
Duane Reinig - Adj.

1981-1982
Gerald Huebert - Comm.
James Grote - Adj.

Do you remember....

The early silent movies? Or the later ones in the Legion Hall that included news reels and serials.

Armistice Day and Homecomings

From personal accounts and newspaper stories, probably few if any days in the annals of Portsmouth, can compare with November 11, 1918, for drama, jubilation, and sadness. The news transmitted by telephone and telegraph of the Allied victory in Europe ending World War I was received in Portsmouth in the early hours, and immediately a celebration began.

Armistice Day Celebration 1918

Portsmouth Band - Armistice Day Celebration 1918.

Schools were dismissed, and the children took turns ringing all the bells in town proclaiming the end of fighting in France. The town band played during the day, and in the evening the merrymaking was climaxed by a huge bonfire on the public school hill. It was the scene of the burning of the Kaiser in effigy. Before the fire was started, a few appropriate remarks were made by Mayor C.A. Monahan, a local businessman.

Guns were fired sporadically during the day. To amplify the noise, blasting powder was placed in a wagon burr, and an anvil in the blacksmith shop was laid on the burr before the powder was ignited. The Harlan Newspaper gives this account of the resulting accident. "Everything progressed all right for a time, but the fatal moment came as it always does, and the burr broke, one large piece striking young John Heller in the knee, going through the clothing and the leg." Johnny was rushed from Doctor Weir's office to an Omaha Hospital. He recalls being taken there by the doctor, his father, Matt Ohlinger, and Peter Herkenrath, who drove his Hupmobile car. Johnny remembers that it was necessary to halt their emergency trip momentarily near Neola to chase some pigs from the road. After many weeks of being in the hospital in serious condition, he was released but had permanent crippling disability as a result of the unfortunate accident. Others narrowly escaped injury when pieces of the burr flew in all directions.

Pvt. John E. Reinig.
Killed in action in France on November 11, 1918. At rest in the Argonne National Cemetery - France.

In another sad vein, the death of Private John Reinig, son of Jacob Reinig, occured on Armistice Day before the firing ceased. His parents did not receive the bad news of his death until December 5th.

Two other soldiers from Portsmouth were also killed in the First World War and ironically all were named John. In addition to Private Reinig, John H. Ohlinger and John Dahlheimer also lost their lives in the war that was fought for the cause of democracy.

In subsequent wars, boys of Portsmouth families have also sacrificed their lives in the service of their country. John Zangerle was killed in the Battle of Manilla in 1945 during the last months of World War II. Matt Leinen was killed in action in Korea, and Billy Kleffman was a victim of the Viet Nam War. All three are buried in St. Mary's cemetery.

The fervor and patriotism demonstated during the public jubilation following the Armistice of 1918 was continued into the spring of 1919. A giant homecoming was then planned and carried out in Portsmouth to welcome home the veterans of the community. The Portsmouth Park was appropriately decorated in patriotic bunting during the barbecue in the park under the able direction of caterers from Omaha.

Pvt. John H. Ohlinger - Born 1895. Killed in Action in France on October 11, 1918. At rest in France.

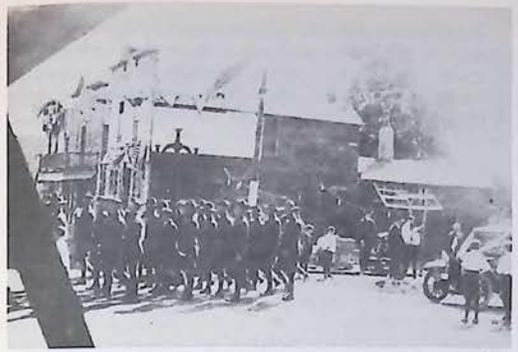
Pvt. John Dahlheimer - Born 1895 - Died August 6, 1918 - England.

Rose E. Buman, W.W. 1 Nurse, died of influenza, October 14, 1918, Camp Pike, Arkansas. The Nurses Division of the American Legion Post No. 1, Omaha, Nebraska was named in her honor. Rose was the daughter of Ludwig and Mary Buman of Lincoln Twp. She is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Pvt. Mathias Leinen - Born January 16, 1929. Entered the service on March 23, 1951. He landed in Korea on August 15, 1951 and was sent to the front two days later. He was killed in action in Korea on September 1, 1951. At rest in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portsmouth, Iowa.

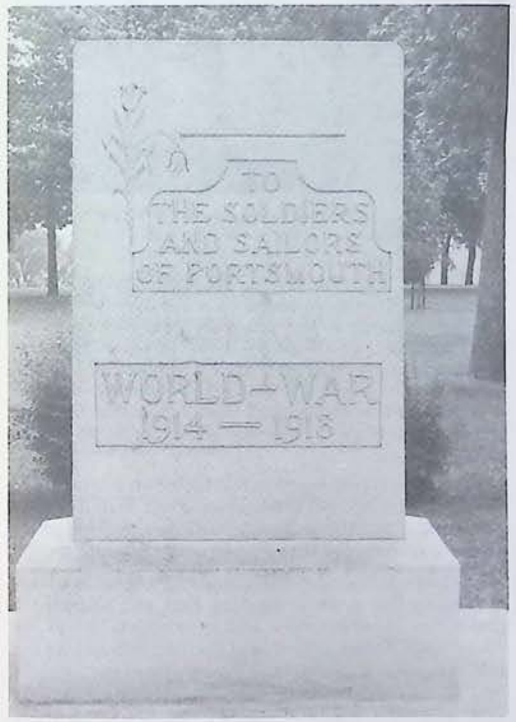
Pvt. John Zangerle - Born May 26, 1911 at Dubuque, Iowa. He was killed in action in the Battle of Manila on February 15, 1945. At rest in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portsmouth, Iowa.

Pfc. William W. Kleffman - Born 1950. Entered service on September 2, 1969. Arrived in Vietnam, February 10, 1970. Killed at Tay Ninh Vietnam on April 7, 1970. At rest in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portsmouth.



1919 Portsmouth Homecoming for W.W.1 Veterans.

The Portsmouth Park was also the scene of the dedication ceremony for the only historical monument in Cass Township. This memorial dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of World War I was unveiled by two Portsmouth Civil War veterans in 1922. In their respective blue and gray uniforms, Simon Bendon represented the North, and Ed Lawrence symbolized the Confederacy.



W.W.1 Veterans Monument in Town Park.

A parade was held in Harlan on June 18, 1946, in celebration of Iowa's 100 years as a State and Homecoming for the boys of World War II. The town of Portsmouth entered a float which was judged to be one of the winners. Young ladies each representing a business

1919 Portsmouth Homecoming for W.W.1 Veterans.

were on the float which was decorated in red, white, and blue streamers. It is estimated 10,000 people gathered even though a fine rain was falling. Local folks were treated to quite a sight in once more seeing Shelby County servicemen wearing their uniforms bedecked with ribbons and decorations. The Portsmouth servicemen, who had returned home, walked in the parade.

Portsmouth Float in Homecoming Parade 1946, Side 2. Shown: Vernita Galiher, Dorothy Gau, Carmelita Schechinger, Roberta McKeighan, Charlotte Rosenthal, Marian Raymond, Rose Ann Leinen, Dorothy Frederick, Mary Helen Heller.

Portsmouth Float in Homecoming Parade for W.W. 2 Veterans and Iowa Centennial Celebration at Harlan, Iowa, June 18, 1946. Shown Virginia Leinen, Rose Lee Raymond, Donna Gau, Rose Ann Monahan, Cecilia Reinig, Catherine Schechinger, Mary Reinig, Eleanor Johansen, Suzette Sondag. Harold Thielen playing piano, and Richard Heller.

Portsmouth Observed the Bicentennial

Along with the rest of the nation, Portsmouth marked the 200th birthday of our country in several ways. The official public ceremony was held April 25, 1976. The flag and certificate designating Portsmouth as an official Bicentennial community was presented by State Representative Danker at the Community Hall. Following a short program the activities concluded at the city park with the raising of the national flag and the new Bicentennial flag.

Alvin Heller and Mrs. Marcella Kwapiszeski unveil Portsmouth's Official Bicentennial Flag.

Marching from the hall to the Town Park for the Flag Raising Ceremony - (Bicentennial Celebration - 1976).

4-H girls at the Bicentennial program - 1976.

Appropriate music for this two-part program was furnished by the Portsmouth adult choir, the Harlan Community High School swing band, and the pupils of Panama-Portsmouth Grade School. Lisa Kohles and Steve Ohlinger gave orations and the Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club presented a skit.

After the flag raising a lunch was served by the Rosary Confraternity in the Community Hall. Bicentennial coins, flag sets, and needlework made by the Senior Citizens was sold as well as chances on a beautiful patriotic afghan made by Bertha Slaven. Posters, with a historic theme, made by the Portsmouth school children were displayed. Appropriate bicentennial coins were awarded as prizes to the poster winners.

Bicentennial Flag Raising Ceremony at the Town Park; Alvin Heller speaking.

Activities and projects for the Bicentennial Year in Portsmouth did not all center on a one day observation. The organizations in the community chose different ways to mark the occasion. The Girls' 4-H Club painted the park benches in appropriate red, white and blue colors. Their efforts also included a large colorful bulletin board displayed at the Portsmouth Bank. The club solicited pictures and clippings of past and present events for display on the bulletin board.

In addition to preparing the Hall for the official program, the CYO was responsible for painting and beautifying the ball park. The official Bicentennial sign, erected at the south entrance of town, was paid for by the youth groups.

The town of Portsmouth donated and erected two large impressive flag poles at the City Park and planted the park's first evergreen tree as a commemorative of the country's 200th year. Painting of the fire plugs and the fire bell also called attention to the awareness of our patriotic heritage of volunteer service. The local American Legion Post sponsored and promoted the sale and flying of the flag during the special year. The Legion Auxiliary, in conjunction with the Legion, planted a special tree.

Individual and family projects were also encouraged. A rural mailbox decorating contest, using a Bicentennial theme, was sponsored and judged July 3rd. Prizes were awarded to the first five place winners.

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary of the John Ohlinger Post, No. 547, was organized at Portsmouth, Iowa, August 1, 1921, with seventeen Charter members. They are listed as follows:

Mrs. Martha E. Scroggin
Mrs. Donald R. Scroggin
Miss Ann Frederick
Mrs. P.L. Frederick
Florence Stephens
Miss Amelia Sondag
Miss Hedwig Schmidt
Mrs. Anna Ohlinger
Mrs. H.W. Reinig
Mrs. Bertha Slaven
Miss Kathryn Parkinson
Mrs. Barbara Reinig
Miss Bessie Clark
Mrs. Mayme Powers
Mrs. M.J. McAndrews
Mrs. Mary Daeges
Miss Marie Monahan

The membership in the auxiliary was limited to the mothers, wives,daughters and sisters of the members of the American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of all men and women who were in the military or naval service of the United States between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and died in line of duty or after honorable discharge and prior to November 11,1920. The auxiliary was to be governed in each Department of the American Legion by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by such Department of the American Legion. Each local group designated a representative to sign the certificate at the foot of the application and to receive the charter when issued. No application would be considered unless properly executed by at least ten women. The applications were made in triplicate, one original and two copies. All three were forwarded to the Department Commander after having been approved by the Post to which the Auxiliary Unit was to be attached. The original application was returned by endorsement to the Local Auxiliary Unit with the charter. One copy of the application was retained by Department Headquarters, and the other by National Headquarters.

During the first year the Unit succeeded in obtaining forty-seven members. The first meeting was called by Don Scroggin, Commander of the local Post. At this meeting, Miss Marie Monahan was elected President. Miss Monahan had the distinction of signing the certificate of the application and received the charter when issued.

Two of the Charter members, Mrs. Anna Ohlinger and Mrs. H.W. Reinig, were Gold Star Mothers. These were mothers who had lost their sons in the War. The Charter was signed by Mrs.Donald McCrae, State President; Mrs. Skelley, State Secretary; Mrs. Hobert, National President; and Pauline Cornick, National Secretary.

During the year 1927, the Unit had four living generations, namely; Marian Raymond, daughter; Mrs. Rose Raymond, mother; Mrs. Anna Leinen, grandmother; and Mrs. Anna Ohlinger, great grandmother. Mrs. Ohlinger was the mother of the hero in whose honor the Post was named. The John Ohlinger Post was the first Post to have an Auxiliary in Shelby County.

The present day American Legion Auxiliary is composed of families of Veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean and Viet Nam Conflicts.

The Unit always has been very active. Among the many activities include selling poppies before Memorial Day, helping the Legion on Memorial Day by attending the church services and providing a fresh bouquet of flowers for decoration of each Veteran's grave. For the last several years, they have served coffee and rolls to all who attend the Memorial Day services. This has proven to be greatly appreciated by everyone, especially those from out of town who have come for that day. In past years they have sent Christmas boxes to the disabled veterans, supervised the Cradle Roll which was used to get the veteran's discharges registered at the County Court House, contributed one hundred twenty dollars for the Mississippi flood relief, contributed to the five million dollar endowment fund, made annual visits to the Clarinda State Hospital to provide entertainment for the patients. In recent years the Unit has sponsored a girl to attend Girl's State. Patty Sondag attended Girl's State as representative of the Unit in 1981. To help defray some of the expenses of their projects, the members serve a chili and soup dinner once a year which is very well attended.

Mrs. Bertha Slaven, one of the original seventeen Charter members, is still an active member of the Unit. She had lived in California for some years but continued her membership while living there.

The 1981-1982 officers of this Unit are; Joan Sondag, President; Betty Huebert, Vice-President; Mary Leinen, Secretary; and Barbara Heller, Treasurer. There are presently forty members.

Boy Scouts

Msgr. N.A. Gaul, with the assistance of Harold Doyle of Avoca, was instrumental in starting Troop 94 of the Boy Scouts in Portsmouth in 1937. Jim McAndrews was the first scout leader. In 1938 A.L. Poe took over as scout master, a position he held until 1942. The scout troop was active with meetings overnight camps at the Pitsch timber and attending the Scout Camporee in Harlan. Quite a few of the young boys took advantage of this fine program.

A.L. Poe, Scout Master, Troop No. 94, Portsmouth, Iowa June 8, 1941.

Some of them were: Virgil Poe, Father Joe Kula, Don Leinen, Paul Leinen, Michael Leinen, Art Leinen, Richard Sondag, Father Joe Sondag, Jack Rosenthal, Jim Slaven, Harold Frederick, Alvin Heller, Bill Sondag, John Raymond, Ernest Ohlinger, Eddie Rosenthal, John Ohlinger, John Wehr, Jack Slaven, Fred Schwery, Harold Leinen, Don Daeges, Frank Olig, Eugene Jacobs, Russell Lefeber, Caroll Reinig, Joe Funk and Gail Coughlin.

Mickie Leinen and Eddie Rosenthal- June 1941.

Scout Troop No. 94 at Camporee - Harlan, Iowa, 1941.
Row 1: Art Leinen, Richard Sondag, Russell Lefeber, Carroll Reinig, Jim Slaven, and Joe Funk.
Row 2: Joe Kula, Don Leinen, Jack Rosenthal, Paul Leinen, Sr., John (Jack) Slaven, Eugene Jacobs and Virgil Poe.

The first Cub Scout pack was started in April, 1976 when Panama invited us to join Pack 42. Portsmouth became Den 2. The first leaders were Gwen Sternberg and Barbara Leinen. The troop consisted of Bob Rau, Mike Juhl, John Reisz, John Springman, Todd Sternberg and Scott Leinen. Others who joined for awhile were Tim Springman, Mark Wilke and Dennis Stolz.

The troop was very active and the boys earned many awards. The most treasured award which Father Rosonke helped them earn, was the Parvuli Dei religious medal.

Cub Scouts: John Reisz, Steve Wingert, Tim Springman, Scott Leinen, Bob Rau, Mike Juhl and Todd Sternberg of Troop 42, Den 2. The flag they are are holding was donated by The Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society - 1977.

Cub Scouts - Den 2 of Portsmouth holding their flag which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Heller - 1979.
Scouts: Mike Juhl, Bob Rau, John Springman, Scott Leinen, Craig Rau, Don Petsche, Jim Springman and Steve Wingert.
Back Row: Barb Leinen (Leader), Ethel Heller, Alvin Heller and Barb Wingert (Leader).

They won the First Place Trophy for Best Booth at the 1978 Scout-O-Rama in Harlan. In 1979 their booth took Third Place. The same year, Craig Rau received a plaque for being a finalist in the Pine Wood Derby event and John Springman received a trophy in the olympic events.

Five boys advanced and completed the Webelo requirements. They were: Bob Rau, Mike Juhl, Steve Wingert, John Springman and Scott Leinen. Scott also earned the Arrow of Light. Dave Veltoff and Alan Wingert were their leaders.

Our cubs at the time we disbanded in Sept., 1980 were: Dean Monahan, Roger Heller, Don Petsche, Dave Petsche and Jim Springman. Leaders were Barbara Wingert and Barbara Leinen and Scoutmaster was Richard Wingert.

Catholic Daughters

The Catholic Daughters of America came into being at Portsmouth around 1918 and were affiliated with St. Catherine's Court at Earling, Iowa. Members met at the City Hall for their meetings at first and now meet in the members' homes. It is a social club and meets monthly.

Active members now are Helen Stein, Helen Leinen, Lena Leinen, Barb Sandbothe, Kunie Fuhs, Lidwina Rau, Bertha Slaven, Kate Plambeck, Clara Lefeber, Barbara Leinen, Arlene Reinig, Helen Huebner, Helen Sternberg, Luella Hendericks. Mrs. Joe S. (Arlene) Reinig is the current President of the group.

The Circle Club

The members of St. Mary's Church Altar Society held a meeting August 7, 1919 for the purpose of starting a social club for the ladies of the community, whether Catholic or non-Catholic. They decided to call the club the 'Circle.'

The Circle Club
1st row: Helen Sternberg, Kate Plambeck, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Reinig, Margaret Gross, Helen Leinen.
2nd row: Lidwinia Rau, Kunigunda Fuhs, Elsie Wendt, Bertha Slaven, Mary Pitsch, Rose Pauley.
3rd row: Emma Lefeber, Helen Stein, Barb Sandbothe, Alma Bruck, Helen Reinig, Hazel Gau, Dorothy Leinen and Lena Leinen.

Officers were Mrs. Giles Bendon, President; Mrs. Joe Schumacher, Vice-President; Mrs. R.A. Mester, Treasurer. The first regular meeting was Sept. 4, 1919, at Mrs. Matt Sondag's home.

Some of the members quilted and some played cards. In 1921 the meetings were changed to the first Wednesday of the month in the afternoon. The membership numbered 40 when the club began and election of officers was held each year. As the years went on the Circle changed to playing bingo which they continue to do.

In 1981 there is only one officer, President, Mrs. J.P. Stein, who has held the position since December, 1963. Members now meet the first Tuesday afternoon of each month at homes of members. Present members are Clara Lefeber, Alma Bruck, Kunie Fuhs, Hazel Gau, Mary Pitsch, Barb Sandbothe, Helen Stein, Margaret Gross, Lidwina Rau, Kate Plambeck, Rose Pauley, Dorothy Leinen, Bertha Slaven, Emma Lefeber, Elsie Wendt, Mary Reinig, Lena Leinen, Helen Sternberg, and Helen Reinig. This club has been in existence continuously for 62 years, making it the oldest social group in the community.

The Golden Pioneers

In April, 1973, the town officials of Portsmouth asked the senior citizens of our community to a meeting to organize a Senior Citizens Club. The mayor and council members gave the outline for the meeting, offered prizes and provided a lunch. The Girls 4-H Club members made favors for those attending to be kept as a souvenir of the first meeting.

Golden Pioneers - 1981.
Row 1: Wm. and Julia Grote, Viola and Zeno Leinen, Kate Plambeck, Alta and Archie Hillyer, Anna Bruck.
Row 2: Emma Lefeber, Elsie Wendt, Mary Reinig, Rose Pauley, Kuni Fuhs, Hazel Gau, Mary Pitsch, Lidwina Rau.
Row 3: Joe and Lena Leinen, Helen Stein, Bertha Slaven, Margaret Gross, Dick Gau, John Pitsch, Mike Sandbothe, Gilbert Rau.

The organizational meeting was held on April 26, 1973, with forty-two members joining. The officiers elected that day were President, Laurina Schmitz; Vice-President, Bertha Slaven; Secretary, Kate Plambeck; Treasurer, Hazel Gau; and Trustees, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Grote, Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Stein, and Mr. and Mrs. John Pitsch.

The Golden Pioneers meet once a month. A short business meeting is followed by card games and bingo. Two or three potluck dinners are planned during the year.

The current officers for 1981 are Emma Lefeber, Lidwina Rau, Hazel Gau, and Kate Plambeck, who has held the office of secretary since the club was formed. Other officers have been Viola Leinen, Margaret Gross, and Frances Heller.

The club has chosen outstanding members to be honored at the County Rally for Senior Citizens held on St. Patrick's Day each year in Harlan. One of the members, Laurina Schmitz, has served on county and area Advisory Boards. In 1981 Mike Sandbothe was selected by the town council to receive special county recognition for his services to the elderly as well as many other community projects.

4-H Clubs

4-H played an important part in building the lives of many young folks. It is an organization providing learning opportunities whereby members are taught to think, to do, and to make decisions with the help of their parents and leaders. It takes determination, courage, and perserverance to be a successful 4-her. Both girl's and boy's clubs have been in existence on and off throughout the years.The girl's "Cloverleaf Club" was started in Cass Township in the early 1920's. Leaders were Mrs. Matt Sondag, Mrs. Jesse Carlson, Mrs. Robert Schafer, Mrs. William Rodgers and Mrs. Joe Daeges. Projects included food and nutrition, home improvement and clothing.

Local achievement shows for the clubs were started in the county in 1927.

Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club - 1929.
Dolores Sondag Megown, Agnes Leinen Hodapp, Emma Ohlinger Monahan, Theodora Leinen Rosenthal, Bernice Herkenrath Rodgers, Bernadette Rosenthal Zeiser, Armella Gubbels Monahan, Marie Sondag and Catherine Sondag Loch.

In 1929, Mrs. Albert Leinen organized the "Cass Sunny Sues Club." In the year 1933, Cass Sunny Sues with 18 members was the largest club in the county. In 1934, the club had 100% attendance at Rally Day. The members also excelled in music appreciation and picture memory contests. Assistant leaders then were Mrs. Emma Monahan and Mrs. Wendel Jacobs. This club continued through 1941.

The Cass Township boys had their beginning in 4-H club work by first belonging to the county organization. Then, in the early 1930's, several townships formed a Loyal Fellows Club. Joe Daeges helped them with their projects. Local achievement consisted in showing their beef projects in the Portsmouth City Park.

The 1930's saw the addition of a health contest. Doctors in the area examined the 4-H boys and girls. The healthiest boy and girl would represent the club at the county fair and maybe go on to the State fair. Members of the club will remember taking part in these contests. At present, they are no longer held.

Also in the 1930's, basketball and kittenball (now known as softball) provided recreation between the clubs in the county.

In 1940, Henry Slaven organized the "Cass Blue Ribbon Boys" with 5 members. They remained active through 1942. A 25¢ defense stamp served as admission to the county fair on 4-H night in 1942.

World War II interrupted both clubs and neither one was active until 1947.

Then in 1947, 4-H was re-activated in Cass Township. Jack Slaven organized the "Portsmouth Super Production Club" with 15 members. Florian Hansen assisted him in 1953-54. In 1957 through 1960, Carl Stein and Mark Leinen were leaders. In 1961-62 assistant leaders were Nick Bruck and Frank Kaufmann. In 1963-1972, Nick Bruck and Jack Slaven handled the reins of the club. 1973-1975 saw Carl Stein and Stanley Martens take over and Ken Stein was leader for the last 2 years of it's existence, 1976-77.

Mrs. A.C. Johansen and Mrs. John N. Stein organized the girl's club with 22 members. They changed the name to "Cass Cloverettes" and remained active for 5 years and during this time published a cook book of which some are still in use today. Charlotte Rosenthal was an assistant leader during 1949 through 1951. The Cass Cloverettes disbanded in 1952.

Carl Stein, 4-H Leader, Dale Seebach, Ext. Director and Mark Leinen, 4-H Leader - 1959.

Portsmouth Super Production 4-H Club - 1959.
Kneeling: Gene Leinen, Mike Reinig, Dave Sternberg, Ron Bruck, Don Arkfeld, Bob Bruck and Jim Stein.
Standing: Bob Leinen, Don Petsche, Bob Stein, Mickey Leinen, Nick Bruck Jr., Gary Book, Alfred Stein, Dave Gross, Bob Lefeber and Darrel Sternberg.

Portsmouth Super Production 4-H Club 1962.
Row 1: Susan Wendt, Joan Bruck, Zita Leinen, Joyce Bruck, Ann Slaven, Albert (Pete) Stein and Rick Bruck.
Row 2: Carl Stein Jr., Stan Slaven, John Slaven, Duane Reinig, John Ohlinger Jr., Bob Bruck, Jim Stein, Dave Kaufman and Ronald Reinig.
Row 3: Nick Bruck (Leader), Ron Bruck, Paul Leinen Jr., Alfred Stein, Larry Reinig, Pat Cairney, Dennis Kaufman, Dave Sternberg, Neil Sternberg Jr. and Jack Slaven (Leader).

Once again in 1957, the girls were back in 4-H. This time Mrs. Albert Leinen and Mrs. Don Gibson helped with the organization and the 35 girls again voted on "Cass Sunny Sues" for their club name. Assistant leaders through 1962 were Mrs. J.P. Stein and Mrs. Neil Sternberg, Sr. In 1963 and 1964 the leaders were Mrs. Neil Sternberg, Sr. and Mrs. Zeno Leinen. From 1965 through 1969 Mrs. Paul Leinen, Sr. led the club with Mrs. Zeno Leinen and Mrs. Helen Stein helping; in 1970 Mrs. Helen Stein was leader. In 1971 through 1977 Mrs. John Ohlinger and Mrs. Delmar Mikels were leaders with Mrs. Arlene Stinn, Mrs. Marvin Kenkel and Mrs. Helen Stein assisting some of these years.

The year, 1977 brought the end of both boys and girls clubs, but the high-lights and memories remain.

Jack Slaven received a twenty-five year award and Mrs. Albert Leinen received a fifteen year award for their many years of service.

The 1950's emphasized the use of soil conservation and land use in 4-H club work. Rural electrification became a special project.

Memory time continues on. Boys overnight camps were fun times with tricks, treats, games and camp fire cookouts for all.

Club tours on a Sunday afternoon were exciting. They usually ended with the whole family enjoying a pot luck supper at the last home toured or in later years in the Portsmouth Park. Many will remember the hectic hours spent in learning to groom and lead those calves. Showing these calves, swine and other projects on the tour and in the show ring at county fair brought anxious moments to both 4-Hers and parents. The purple, blue and red ribbons handed out through the years made it all worth while.

In 1963 the first county boys and girls joint 4-H Rally was held in Harlan. Many of our boys and girls were elected to county offices. They also received numerous awards. Several of the girls recited the 4-H Country Girls Creed by Jessie Field Shambaugh both at "Rally Night" and "County Fair."

Other memorable events to be remembered were 4-H State camp at Madrid, National 4-H Congress, Kansas City Royal, Youth Exchange Programs and Record Banquets. There were also the one day Jamborees in the Avoca or Elk Horn parks, roller skating parties, style shows, cherry pie baking contests, better grooming contest, county Queen contests, county and state fair exhibits, the presentations and the working exhibits by both boys and girls at the county and at the Iowa State Fair.

Of special interest to our community were these accomplishments: the daughters entertaining their mothers at the "Mother-Daughter" teas, the mowing and clipping of the Catholic and Cass Township cemeteries for Memorial Day; providing favors and helping with a senior citizen's organizational meeting in 1973; putting on a short skit for the Bicentennial program and earning money for a pitcher's mound for the girls new softball diamond through a 4-H Pioneer Seed Corn grant in 1977.

Every year the members would march in procession and participate in the liturgy of the mass on Rural Life Sunday.

In later years the youth living in towns and cities were permitted to join 4-H along with the country and farm youth.

There are over 120 projects for Juniors, Intermediate and Senior members to enroll in at the present time. As you can see 4-H is a way of living that contributes much to family, community, and country. Every one who has a past connected with 4-H will remember:

The 4-H Slogan: To Learn by Doing

The 4-H Motto: To Make the Best Better

The 4-H Pledge: I pledge My Head to Clearer Thinking
My Heart to Greater Loyalty
My Hands to Larger Service
My Health to Better Living
For My Club, My Community,
My Country and My World.

Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club of 1933.
Row 1: Bonnie Herkenrath Peterson, Dorothy Galiher Smith, Ramona Slaven Leinen and Helen Leinen Stein.
Row 2: Verda Thomas Brath, Helena Leinen Elbert, Valera Herkenrath Gillette, Mary Ann Ohlinger Feser, Madeline Elder Ohlinger and Margaret Galiher Butterbaugh.

Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club of 1938.Row 1: Helen Leinen Stein, Dolores Leinen Schmitz, Suzette Sondag Langenfeld and Arlene Leinen Reinig.
Row 2: Annie Leinen Kenney, Virginia Jacobs Bissen, Mildred Leinen Reinig and Helena Leinen Elbert.

Did You Know?

In 1900 gasoline sold for 10 cents a gallon and kerosene was 15 cents a gallon.

Cass Cloverettes 4-H Club - 1951.
Row 1: Frances Schmidt, Janette Weihs, Eunice Leinen, Peggy Jurschak, Rita Smith, Marge Heller, Darlene Herkenrath, Joan Brady.
Row 2: Mary Lou Fuhs, Joyce Johansen, Ursula Leinen, Elva Schack, Mrs. Miami Johansen (Leader), Cleo Leinen, Jeanette Kenkel, Joan Schmidt, Margie Brady, Arlene Fuhs.

Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club - 1962.
Row 1: Marilyn Ohlinger, Rose Ann Reinig, Dolores Reinig, Carolyn Ohlinger and Dorothy Stein.
Row 2: Betty Reinig, Mary Helen Reinig, Jane Ohlinger and Julie Cairney.
Row 3: Lavonne Lefeber, Jo Ann Hendricks and Darlene Hendricks.
Row 4: Karen Hendricks, Mary Langenfeld and Barbara Stein.
Row 5: Emily Ohlinger, Janet Petsche and Judy Reinig.
Row 6: Zita Leinen, Linda Sondag and Susan Leinen.
Row 7: Patricia Stein, Laura Reinig, Ann Slaven, Jane Langenfeld and Joan Reinig.

Do you remember....

Pumping the old pipe organ in the choir loft of the old brick church.

Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club - 1958.
Row 1: Donna Sonderman, Margie Lefeber and Lois Leinen.
Row 2: Lavonne Lefeber, Jo Ann Hendricks, Carolyn Zimmerman, Mary Reinig and Mrs. Don Gibson (Leader).
Row 3: Marlene Jurschak, Cindy Stein, Betty Reinig and Mrs. Albert Leinen (Leader).
Row 4: Rose Ann Reinig, Jean Gaul, and Linda Leinen.
Row 5: Joan Jurschak, Marilyn Leinen and Janet Leinen.
Row 6: Shirley Gaul, Dolores Reinig and Jean Jurschak.
Row 7: Arlene Kohl, Marilyn Ohlinger and Julie Schechinger.
Row 8: Karen Hendricks, Gwen Jurschak and Jane Leinen.
Row 9: Mildred Leinen, Dorothy Stein and Jeannie Leinen.

Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club - 1963.
Row 1: Janet Petsche, Joyce Bruck, Zita Leinen, Emily Ohlinger and Marie Reinig.
Row 2: Helen Sternberg (Leader), Julie Cairney, Ann Slaven, Susan Leinen, Pat Stein, Linda Sondag, and Viola Leinen (Leader).
Row 3: Barbara Cairney, Marjorie Reinig, Joan Bruck, Laura Reinig and Jeannie Sondag.

Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club - 1965.
1st Row: Susan Wendt, Joyce Herbst, Sandy Sternberg, Theresa Bruck and Joan Bruck.
Back: Zita Leinen, Susan Leinen, Lucy Wendt, Janet Petsche, Susan Herbst, Pat Stein, Emily Ohlinger, Jeannie Sondag, Barbara Cairney, Linda Sondag, Viola Leinen (Leader) and Lois Mikels.

4-H girls doing a craft project - 1973.
Donna Mikels, Denise Buckley, Diane Buckley, Cheryl Waltz Schmitz, Jackie Heller Borkowski, Mary Ann Stein Murtaugh, Alice Ohlinger and Donna Leinen Muell.

Modern Woodmen of America and Royal Neighbors

These organizations have disbanded in Portsmouth but for the first four decades of the 20th century they were active. They were fraternal groups affiliated with a national organization and offered life insurance to their members. They are not to be confused with the Woodmen of the World insurance group.

The Portsmouth Camp of the Woodmen and their feminine counterparts, known as the Royal Neighbors, were a social organization and maintained their own hall which was located where the present Legion Hall stands. They had initiation ceremonies and also sponsored a drill team. A 1903 picture shows the members in their spruce green uniforms carrying an ax, the symbol of their woodmen organization. The Royal Neighbors was a non-denominational group whose members were those of good character and voted upon by the members.

Cass Sunny Sues 4-H Club of 1977
Row 1: Kathy Reinig, Kelly Funk, Mary Miller, Lori Kohles and Cheryl Fuhs.
Row 2: Lisa Kohles, Mary Stein Murtaugh, Denise Buckley, Susie Schmitz and Cheri Heller.
Row 3: Phyllis Mikels (Leader), Donna Mikels, Susie Funk, Rachelle Gau, Mary Slaven and Rita Ohlinger (Leader).

1903 Modern Woodmen of America Drill Team
Row 1: Willie Williams, Herb Lawrence, Andrew Benson, John Benning.
Row 2: Bud Merriam, Bruce Greenlee, Dave Lawrence, Roy Williams, Martin Ankerstein.
Row 3: Wilbur Waterman, Otto Lawrence, Harry Chase and Lou Oathoust.

Pioneer Country Club

The Pioneer Country Club was started in 1925 and named in the honor of the old Pioneer School which was a gathering place for the residents of the southeast part of Cass Township. Mrs. George Burcham invited a few ladies in for coffee one afternoon and they began to plan a neighborhood club. The next meeting was at Mrs. Jack Tague's home to do more planning and on September 16th

50th Anniversary Party of the Pioneer Country Club
September 17, 1975
Members, Charter Members and guests present were:

Row 1: (on floor) Rose Wingert, Marilyn Fahn, Clarice Buman, Kathy Buman Dorothy Haas, Dorothy Chipman, and Arletha Hockett.
Row 2: (seated) Bernice Linden, Charlotte Plumb, Norma Gibson, Blanche Tank, Lillian Hansen, Edith Linden, Elsie Juhl, Hazel Carlsen, Mildred Quimby, Ruby Bradfford, Pauline Escher, Jennie McLaughlin, Mae Green, and Leona Johnson.
Row 3: (standing) Helen Reinig, Verlee Peters, Betty Boeck, Alice Gibson, Clara Petersen, Monna Juhl, Helen McKnabb, Esther Boardman, Juanita Boeck, Virginia Rasmussen, Mary Lytle, Velma Linden, Theresa Davis, Vivian Kaufman, Esther Becker, Alice Larsen, Freda Boeck, Bethel Jensen and Mrs. Kenneth Kern.

First Officers of Pioneer Country Club
Dora Green, Hazel McKeighan, Alma Hoover and Effie Alloway - 1925.

the group was launched at the home of Mrs. Will Alloway. A constitution and by-laws had been written and they were read and approved. Fifteen ladies joined and the following were elected as the initial officers: Mrs. Will Alloway, President; Mrs. Alma Hoover, Vice President; Mrs. Hazel McKeighan, Secretary and Reporter; Mrs. Emery Green, Treasurer; and Mary Tague, Pianist.

The club has celebrated their 15th, 25th, and 50th anniversaries with parties. Eight charter members were recognized at the 50th anniversary party on September 17, 1975. They were Hazel Carlson, Theresa Schnack, Elsie Juhl, Edith Linden, Charlotte Plumb, Pauline Escher, Mae Green and Leona Johnson.

QUILTING CLUB

The Quilting Club was formed in May, 1971, with six members. Bertha Slaven organized the club with their first two quilts sewed in her home. As most homes are not spacious enough to accommodate the necessary equipment, Father Kelly made available the parsonage basement for the club. The members furnished their quarters with paneling, lights, and a carpet.

When the rectory basement was converted to a chapel in the fall of 1980, the quilting room was moved to St. Mary's School basement. Money earned from their quilting efforts was used to help pay for an outside entrance to their room. New ceiling lights were also added.

Quilting Club 1981
Row 1: Helen Leinen, Kate Plambeck, Lidwinia Rau, Mary Pitsch, Bertha Slaven, Mary Reinig.
Row 2: Suzette Langenfeld, Elsie Wendt, Odelia Schmidt, Rose Pauley, Emma Lefeber.
Row 3: Rita Ohlinger, Helen Stein, Helen Reinig, Catherine Huebner, Arlene Reinig and Helen Sternberg.
Members not pictured are Kunigunda Fuhs, Helen Stein and Laurina Schmitz.

The charge for quilting varies according to the size of the quilts. They have quilted a total of 231 quilts during the first ten years of their existence.

The group has grown to nineteen regular members, namely; Bertha Slaven, Helen Stein, Emma Lebefer, Lidwina Rau, Helen Leinen, Mary Pitsch, Mary Reinig, Kate Plambeck, Kunie Fuhs, Helen Sternberg, Rita Ohlinger, Arlene Reinig, Helen Stein, Laurina Schmitz, Elsie Wendt, Suzette Langenfeld, Rose Pauley, Helen Reinig, Catherine Huebner, and they are occasionally assisted by Odelia Schmidt and Barbara Newland. They quilt weekly and the 1981 officers are president, Helen Stein, and secretary-treasurer, Helen Leinen.

The club has made and donated twelve complete quilts to pastors, church picnics, and bazaars. Donations have been made to Concerned at Harlan, Social Services of Des Moines, Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, Missions, and charitable collections of the parish, including the gilding of the votive light stand. They have also furnished pots and flowers for the shrine of our Lady of Fatima and have donated flowers for the church altars at Christmas and Easter.

Ringside Club

The Ringside Club was organized on May 20, 1947, with eleven members: Hazel Connelly, Ceil Voge, Catherine Huebner, Lena Huebner, Pauline Ohlinger, Rita Sonderman, Lois Hatterman, Opal LaSourd, Miami Johansen, Helen Huebner, and Lucille Lasher. Mart Felgentreff and Marie Kruger joined in June of that year. Each member was asked to submit a name for the newly organized club and Catherine Huebner's suggestion of Ringside Club was chosen.

The group decided to assess dues of 10 cents from each member and that amount has never changed. They meet regularly on the first Thursday of each month in the homes of the members. The organization is a social group and they play games, have contests, and enjoy lunch served by the hostess. A card party is held the same night with their husbands invited. In July and August they substitute an annual picnic and weiner roast for their regularly scheduled meetings.

Four of the present members are charter members, namely; Hazel Connelly, Catherine Huebner, Helen Huebner, and Rita Sonderman. The other current members are Virginia Reinig, Margaret Book, Joan Martens, and JoAnn Finerty. The Club celebrated their 10th anniversary at the Tamarack at Missouri Valley in 1957, marked their 25th year at the Marina in Blair, Nebraska, and plan to observe their 35th anniversary in 1982.

Ringside Club
1st row: Joan Martens, JoAnn Finerty.
2nd row: Virginia Reinig, Rita Sonderman, Helen Huebner, Hazel Connelly, Catherine Huebner, Margaret Book.

Societies of Saint Mary's Church

The Rosary Confraternity, an affiliate of an international organization, was established at Saint Mary's Parish in Portsmouth on December 6, 1936. This organization replaced the Ladies Altar Society which had been active prior to 1919.

The members of the Rosary Confraternity attended mass and received communion as a group on the first Sundays of each month. They also sponsored social and fund raising events. In the 1950's they began having monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Currently, these meetings consist of a speaker, business discussions, and entertainment. The officers for 1981 are president, Loretta Vonnahme; vice-president, Ramona Kaufman; and secretary-treasurer, Helen Sternberg.

Another parish organization was the Holy Name Society for the men of the parish. The second Sunday of each month was designated as Communion Sunday for them. This group sponsored different activities during the year for the benefit of Saint Mary's Church. This society is no longer active.

The young people of Saint Mary's Parish became members of the Boys' and Girls' Sodality when they reached high school age and remained members until they were married or left the parish. The Sodality sponsored home talent plays and other activities during the years. These groups were discontinued in the late 1930's.

The parish teenagers are now associated with the Catholic Youth Organization for athletic and other recreational activities.

Portsmouth German Cornet Band

The first Portsmouth Band was known as The German Cornet Band and was the forerunner of The Portsmouth Band. They played until shortly before W.W.I. The members of the German Cornet Band were as follows: Leader-Joe Gau, Robert Grund, Mike White, Mike E. Leinen, Matt Hammes, Arnold Gau, John M. Leinen, Oscar Gill, Will Thomas, John Wehr, M.W. Balfour, John Gayman, John Hammes, Peter M. Leinen, Frank Walker, John Pfeiffer.

The band had a wonderful band wagon which they specially built themselves. Besides performing for Portsmouth activities, the band also went from town to town playing for celebrations. They also played at Council Bluffs for the homecoming of the soldiers of Southwest Iowa, who served in the Philippines during the Spanish American War of 1898.

Portsmouth Band

This band played from 1916 until 1940 under the leadership of Arnold Gau. Their music was heard at the Armistice Day celebration of 1918 and also at the Veterans Homecoming Celebration after W.W.I. In early years they gave concerts at the bandstand in the town park and later this bandstand was moved downtown southeast of the square and Saturday night concerts were performed there. The band also played for many social, community and church activities.

Some members of this band, through the years were: Director - Arnold Gau, Joe Gau, Chris Gau, Arnie Gau, Dick Gau, Mike Gau, George Hainley, Bert Leinen, John J. Leinen, Matt Leinen, Matt Ohlinger, Don Scroggin, Jess Carlson, Hazel Carlson, Owen Bendon, Henry Razee, George Razee, Joe F. Reinig, Herm Leinen, Cecil Monahan,

Peter M. Ohlinger, Leo Ohlinger, Alfred Ohlinger, Shorty Hansen, Bill Giese, Matt Gross, Joe Olig, Leon Coughlin, Jim Coughlin, Virgil Poe, Joseph Sondag, Bill Grote, Jim Grote and Bob Grote.

One of the highlights in the era of this band was in 1932 when the bands of the west side of Shelby County were combined under the leadership of Father Duren from Westphalia, and traveled to Omaha to play at the International Eucharistic Congress held at Creighton Stadium. John Leinen, Bert Leinen and Dick Gau say they can still remember the applause and cheering as they marched up Farnam Street in downtown Omaha, playing The Iowa Corn Song.

Mike E. Leinen

Peter M. Leinen

Matt and John Hammes

Did You Know?

The census of 1874, shows that Cass township had a population of 116 people, 58 male and 58 female. There were 5 births and 1 death. Of the 22 eligible voters in the township, 13 were born in England,3 in Canada, 3 in Scotland, 1 in Germany, and 2 in the United States.

The area in the Cass Township Cemetery around the gravesites is still original prairie. It has never been plowed and each summer is in bloom with wild flowers.

In 1878 a wood fence was built around the Cass Township Cemetery, using 260 - 8 ft. posts set 8 ft. apart. 2,048 feet of no. 1 pine 1 by 6 boards were also used. The total cost for material and labor was $169.95.

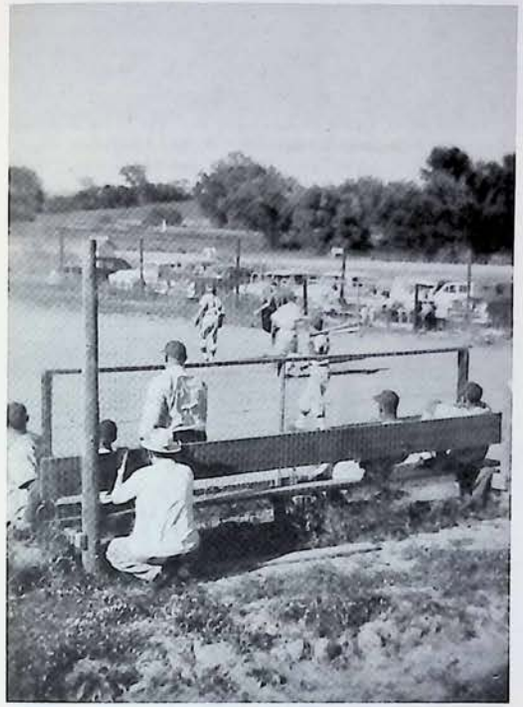
Arnold and Joe Gau

Portsmouth Band - 1930

Bandstand in the Town Park

1919 Portsmouth homecoming for W.W. I veterans

Sports



M.E. Leinen Baseball Diamond one-half mile east of Portsmouth.

Mickey Coughlin Baseball Diamond east of the railroad tracks.

Bob Ramsey Baseball Diamond where Ralph Kruger's house now stands.

The present ball park.

Portsmouth Baseball

Without a doubt baseball has always been the favorite sport in the Portsmouth community. The first baseball parks were the Bob Ramsey field where Ralph Kruger's house stands today and also a site east of the Monahan Oil bulk plant east of the railroad tracks on land which at that time was owned by Mickey Coughlin, now owned by M.T. Leinen.

After W.W. II the diamond was at the M.E. Leinen farm east of Portsmouth. In 1949 land was purchased on the northeast edge of Portsmouth where the ball park now is located. Members of the committee in charge of developing this site for a ball park were: Joe Leinen, Bob Reinig, Francis Leinen, Ernie Ohlinger and Louis Leinen. Much of the dirt moving and leveling was done by the local people, with tractors and scrapers. In 1949 the diamond was ready for use.

Later a decision was made to install lights for night baseball at the park. The committee for this undertaking consisted of John Ohlinger, Mike Bruck, Jack Slaven, Walt Reisz, Nick Bruck and M.T. Leinen. A large community auction, bake sale and lunch was held and enough money raised at this event to buy and install the poles and lights. The lights were installed in June, 1964. Peter Ohlinger laid out the lighting diagram for the field. After the lights were installed, a town team tournament was initiated between the teams of the Iowa Western League. This has become an annual event. Many other county and district tournaments have been held for the Little League and Legion Teams.After acquiring the new ball field in 1949 the Portsmouth Athletic Association was formed and all the baseball teams are now organized and financed through this organization.

Portsmouth has fielded many good baseball teams, and has had many outstanding players from the first team of 1902, to the present team. In early days the train was a means of transportation to and from many of the towns where they played. The fare was twelve cents to Persia, and thirty-one cents to Neola.

The First Portsmouth Baseball Team - 1902
Row 1: Jim Hawn, Lee Clark (Mascot), Matt Herkenrath.
Row 2: George Battey, Herb Lawrence and John M. Leinen.
Row 3: Kearney Elder, Pete Herkenrath, Lee Hitching (Umpire), Jim Benning, John Herkenrath (Manager), Otto Lawrence and Ed Lawrence.

Portsmouth is a charter member of the Iowa Western League and has had a team in this league every year of it's existence. Phil Herkenrath served as president of the league for several years. Some town team managers have been: John Herkenrath, Charlie Gallagher, John Rosenthal, Doc Weir, Dan Doyle, Ike Ohlinger, Jim White, Francis Leinen, Phil Herkenrath, John Ohlinger, Ernie Ohlinger, Jack Slaven, Chuck Hayes, M.T. Leinen, Mel Book, Jack Wendt, Richard Lefeber, Gene Reinig, Frank Funk, Terry Book, Neil Petsche, and Stan Slaven. Umpires were: Les Hitching, Matt Ohlinger, Dey Weygint, Ike Ohlinger, Joe Leinen, Jack Slaven, Bob Cairney, Bob Reinig, Paul Leinen, Sr., Chuck Hayes, Nick Bruck, Alvin Kohl, Dan Huebert, Richard Ohlinger, and Ken Slaven.

Portsmouth Town Teams have won the Iowa Western League Championship in: 1958 - Richard Lefeber, Mgr., 1961 - M.T. Leinen, Mgr., 1969 - Frank Funk, Mgr., 1979 -Neil Petsche, Mgr., 1981 - Stan Slaven, Mgr.

Tournament wins include: 1914 - Shelby County Fair, Charlie Gallagher, Mgr., 1961 - Hoo Doo - Neola, M.T. Leinen, Mgr., 1969 Iowa Western League, Frank Funk, Mgr., 1977 - Westphalia, Terry Book, Mgr., 1978 - Shelby Co. Tournament at Earling, Neil Petsche, Mgr., 1979 -Iowa Western League, Neil Petsche, Mgr.

In 1958 Jack Slaven and Ted Williams of Harlan were instrumental in organizing the Shelby County Little League program which includes pee wee, cub and midget teams. Portsmouth has had teams in this league every year since it was organized. Jack Slaven served as county commissioner for this league from 1958 through 1979.

Some of the pee wee, cub, and midget coaches have been: Mike Bruck, Jack Slaven, Nick Bruck, Jack Wendt, Bill Fuhs, Richard Lefeber, M.T. Leinen, Ed Leinen, John Ohlinger, Richard Ohlinger, Richard Fuhs, Nick Leinen, Tom Leinen, Dan Huebert, Richard Wingert, DeWayne Stolz, Neil Petsche, Paul Leinen, Jr., Leonard Rau, and Bill Bruck.

1981 Pee Wee Baseball Team
Row 1: Danny Springman, Kelly Lefeber, Dave Petsche, Joe Kaufman, Danny Kohl, and Jim Gibson.
Row 2: Paul Leinen Jr., (Asst. Coach), Mark Sternberg, Jim Springman, Roger Heller, Don Petsche, Craig Rau, Scott Lefeber and Neil Petsche (Coach).

The pee wee teams have had several league and tournament wins including the years of 1970 and 1971.

The cubs also had several league and tournament champions, including the year of 1974.

1981 Portsmouth Cub Baseball Team
Row 1: Tim Springman, Rick Lefeber, Todd Bruck, Billy Schoemann, Mike Juhl, Bob Rau and Kevin Bruck.
Row 2: Leonard Rau (Coach), John Springman, John Reisz, Scott Leinen, Bill Weihs, Todd Sternberg and Bill Bruck (Coach).

1981 Portsmouth Midget Baseball Team
Row 1: Tom Weihs, Bill Sondag, Rich McDermott, Tom Lefeber, Jeff Schoemann and Jeff Lefeber.
Row 2: Richard Lefeber (Coach), Rog Wilke, Paul Heller, Bill Slaven, Joe Miller, Joe Bruck and Greg Weihs.

Portsmouth won the county midget league titles in 1964-65 and 1969. Also a tournament first in 1965. Under Richard Ohlinger in 1977 they placed second in the 7th district tournament at Hamburg.

From 1920 until 1942, P.J. Ohlinger was the head gate keeper at the ball park. For the past thirty years Mike Sandbothe has been the head man at the park, selling tickets at the gate, keeping the foul ball chasers on the job, and doing many other chores that need to be done before, during and after the games.

Through the summer the Portsmouth ball park has a game going nearly every evening. Much work and many improvements each year have made the Portsmouth ball park one of the finest in the area.

Do you remember....

Marching in rank from school to church - going to and from recess - punishment for breaking rank or stepping off the sidewalk onto the grass was staying in school at recess or staying after school.

The Latin Mass - and other ceremonies - Latin hymns.

Portsmouth Baseball Team of 1914
Charlie Gallagher (Manager), Ted Benning, Web Benning, Will Dahlheimer, Will Herkenrath, Matt Ohlinger, John Rosenthal, Mike Sondag, Happy Earhart, Pete Claussen and Husk Francis.

Baseball Team of 1920
A.C. (Ike) Ohlinger, Duke McLaughlin, Kreber, Bun Dohrman, Richard Hammes, Bert Leinen, Pete Frederick, Herm Leinen, John J. (Frisch) Leinen, Charlie Monahan, John Frederick, Jim Lawrence and Nick Leinen (Manager).

Town Team of 1955
Row 1: Ernie Lefeber, Rich Zimmerman, Rich Lefeber, Harvey Leinen and Orv Leinen.
Row 2: Gene Reinig, Jack Slaven (Manager), Rich Leinen, Jack Wendt, Joe Leinen Jr. and Ron (Peanuts) Reinig.

The woodpile - hauling coal from the railroad car to the school, rectory and Sister's house.

The band playing at first communion - Corpus Christi processions.

1961 Iowa Western League Champions
Bat Boy: Dick Leinen
Row 1: Mike Leinen Jr., Dean Gau, Frank Funk, Harvey Leinen, Orv Leinen, Richard Lefeber and Bill Anderson.
Row 2: Raymond (Bunny) Gubbels, Dick Herkenrath, Ron (Peanuts) Reinig, Terry Kramer, Dick Cairney, Neil Zimmerman, Gene Reinig, and Mickey Leinen (Manager).

Men's Soft Ball

Portsmouth had a softball team in the 1930's with Dey Weygint as manager.

The sport was started again in 1977 with Ron Bruck as manager. This team won the 1977 Irwin Invitational Tournament and the 1977 Kimballton Slow Pitch Tourney.

On June 9, 1978 six representatives from the area towns met at Panama and organized a men's small town slow pitch softball league. Alvin Kohl was the Portsmouth representative and also manager of the 1978 team.

The 1979 and 1980 teams were managed by Jim Buman and Albert Stein. The 1979 team won the league title and tournament. They also won the Defiance and Panama tournaments.

1979 Mens Slow Pitch Softball Team
Kneeling: Paul Stein, Ron Bruck, Barry Wingert, Steve Ohlinger, Albert (Pete) Stein, Ken Stein, Rick Bruck, Dave Gau and Randy Bruck.
Standing: Dan Lefeber, Randy Gessert, Rick Gau, John Bruck, Jim Buman, Gaylen Pauley; (Absent) Dave Ohlinger.

Girl's Softball

Girl's softball was started in 1959 when St. Mary's High School had a summer softball team, with Fr. Bernard Heese as coach. This team won the 1959 Kimballton, Ia. Tournament. John Leinen donated the first set of equipment for the girl's program which continued for the next

1981 Portsmouth Town Team
Bat Boys: Dave and Don Petsche.
Row 1: Stan Slaven (Manager), Ron Gau, Randy Fuhs, Larry Stein, Bob Heller, and Paul Waltz.
Row 2: Marv Leinen, Dean Lefeber, Don Muell, Neil Petsche, Steve Martens, Ken Leinen, Nick Leinen, Dave Ohlinger, and Ken Slaven (Umpire).

four years. From 1964, through 1968 there was no girl's softball team, but with renewed enthusiasm for the sport in 1969, teams were again organized. At this time Jim Grote donated equipment for the teams.

Since the high school at Portsmouth had closed these teams joined a league which was called "mixed women's." Girls in the seventh through twelfth grade played in the girl's division and the older girls and married ladies played in the women's division. The 1969 girl's team took second place at the Earling Tournament. The 1970 girl's team won the Earling Tournament, the women's team also won in their division. The women have not had a team since 1978. The high school girl's softball has continued since 1969 and are now called C.Y.O. (Catholic Youth Organization) teams. They play in a league consisting of teams from the neighboring towns. Girls in grades nine and ten are on the "B" team, and girl's grades eleven and twelve play on the "A" team. At the end of the regular season there is a double elimination tournament with both the "A" and "B" teams participating.

The C.Y.O. team had a tournament win at Persia in 1972. The "A" and "B" teams had firsts at the 1975 C.Y.O. Tourney. The "B" team finished second in 1980 at the Portsmouth Tournament. The "A" Team won the 1981 C.Y.O. Tournament at Panama.The girls, nine through fourteen, have had teams since 1976, with girls in the fifth and sixth grades playing on the "B" team, and girls in the seventh and eighth grades with the "A" team. These girls belong to a league known as Western Iowa Girl's Softball League which is based at Neola, Iowa. The 1976 and 1977 "A" and "B" teams had league and tournament wins. At the Neola Tournament of 1978 the "A" team took first place, and the "B" team had a second place. The 1981 "A" team won the Western Conference Tournament. The "B" team finished third in this tournament.

Girl's softball has come a long way since it started in 1959. In 1976 it was decided that one diamond couldn't handle all of the baseball and softball games scheduled. A Softball Association was formed, with Frank Funk, Jim Grote and Richard Leinen heading this organization. St. Mary's Parish leased some ground to the Association for a diamond, and bake sales, dances, soup dinners and dona-

1981 Girls C.Y.O. "B" Softball Team.
Row 1: Janet Schoemann, Susie Schmitz, Lori Kohles, Susanne Kohl, Maxine Grote (Coach).
Row 2: Mary Slaven, Mary Lou Smith, Mary Jo Huebner, Kathy Reinig and Janice Huebert.

1981 Little Girls "A" Softball Team
Row 1: Cindy Leinen, Mitz Bruck, Cheryl Fuhs, Rita Schoeman and Jackie Lefeber.
Row 2: Judy Funk (Coach), Janet Lefeber, Julie Kohl, Mary Miller, Kelly Funk, Ramona Springman, Alma Leinen (Ass't. Coach). Absent Michelle Schneider.

tions brought funds for supplies and fencing for the diamond. After many hours of hard work (all donated) by dedicated people, the first game was played on the new diamond in 1977. Since that time, water has been piped to the grounds, a building put up for concessions, also a scoreboard, bleachers and many other improvements have been added. We can all be proud of the interest our community has in it's young people and their abilities.

Town Team Basketball

In the late 1930's, Town Team Basketball was inaugurated at Portsmouth. A team has been entered in the Shelby County League every year since it was organized. Some of the tournament and league firsts were:

1943 Earling Invitational Tournament Champions
1961-62 League and Tournament Champions
1962-63 League Champions
1963 Tri County Tourney Champions
1963-64 League Champions
1964-65 Iowa Western League Champions
1966-67 Shelby County League Champions

1981 Girls C.Y.O. "A" Softball Team
Row 1: Susie Funk, Patty Sondag, Diane Huebert, Lila Bruck, Gary Kohles (Coach).
Row 2: Rachelle Gau, Julie Gau, Trudi Lasourd, Lisa Kohles, Chris Pauley and Vicki Leinen.

1981 Little Girls "B" Softball Team
Row 1: Kathy Funk, Amy Miller, Cindy Schneider, Becky Book, Brenda Vonnahme, Shelli Hughes, and Jill Fuhs.
Row 2: Judy Funk (Coach), Mary Kohles, Joan Fuhs, Christy Kohl, Ann McDermott, Michelle Lefeber, Deanne Kaufman, Alma Leinen, (Ass't. Coach).

1961-62 Town Team Basketball Champs
Row 1: Gene Reinig, Dean Gau, Dick Cairney and Harley Erickson.
Row 2: Bernie Kramer, Don (Moe) Larsen, Ron Larsen, Dick Herkenrath and Frank Funk.

The teams from 1961 through 1967 were under the leadership of Gene Reinig.

1968-69 Shelby County League Champions

1980 S.W.I. Tourney Champions - Ed Leinen, coach

1981 Earling League Tourney Champions - Larry Reinig, coach

St. Mary's School Sports

St. Mary's School of Portsmouth basketball program was initiated in 1930 under Edward Doffing, the first coach. As the team did not have a gym to play in, practices were held at Panama. Two years later the Legion Hall was remodeled, the trusses rebuilt and it was used for a gym until the time when the new Community Hall was built on the parish grounds. Harold Crawford was the second coach. Under his leadership in 1932-33, the boy's team won the Diocesan Tournament. Other coaches were Msgr. Paul Marasco and several assistant priests. At different periods former players also acted as coaches. Some of these were Paul Bendon, M.T. Leinen, and Chuck Hayes.

St. Mary's Championship Basketball Team - 1932-33
Row 1: Paul Bendon, Phil Herkenrath, Alfred (Chick) Ohlinger, Leon (Irish) Coughlin and Leo (Pat) McAndrews.
Row 2: Clifford Thomas, James Coughlin, Neil Ohlinger, Harold Crawford (Coach), Alfred Mester, Joe Olig and Vernon Herkenrath.

St. Mary's Boys Basketball Team 1939-40
Row 1: Art Leinen, Harold Frederick, Ernie Ohlinger, Jack Slaven and Urban Peterson.
Row 2: M. T. Leinen (Coach), N.M. Schechinger, Gerald Reinig, Father Joe Kula and Don Leinen.

St. Mary's Basketball Team - 1949-50
Row 1: Kenny Bendon, Raymond (Bunny) Gubbels, Phil Monahan, Don Heller, Dean Gau, and Vernon Gubbels.
Row 2: Gerald Andersen, Alfred Reinig, Orv Leinen, Fred Katzer, Gene Reinig and Jim Leinen.

The baseball program was also started in 1930, by Edward Doffing. Other managers were Harold Crawford, Msgr. Paul Marasco, John Leinen, Jim White, and Ernie Ohlinger. Many of the former high school baseball and basketball players went on to form the nucleus of the good town teams which Portsmouth has produced.

First St. Mary's High School Baseball Team - 1930
Row 1: Francis Sondag, Ambrose Wehr, Leo Coughlin, Edward Doffing (Coach), Leo Ohlinger, Phil Herkenrath and Frank White.
Row 2: Paul Bendon, Leon (Irish) Coughlin, Bernard (Bun) Herkenrath, Alfred (Chick) Ohlinger, John Jurschak and Pat McAndrews

St. Mary's Girls Basketball Team of 1940

Some years later girl's basketball was initiated and the girl's program developed many good teams. Some of the girl's coaches were Paul Bendon, Jim White, Eugene Peterson, and Doris Klein.

On July 10, 1956 Portsmouth boy's and girl's C.Y.O. won the annual field and track meet of the West Deanery, Des Moines Diocese. Coaches were Father Ralph Goeser, Louie Leinen, and Ernie Ohlinger.

In 1964 the Portsmouth School merged with Panama and under Gary Ratigan and Leo Hensley, produced several outstanding ball clubs. Junior high was coached by Michael T. Leinen, John Ohlinger, Pat Sullivan, Dennis Smeltzer and Ron Chamberlin.

Later most of the Portsmouth School District was consolidated with Harlan School District. A small area in the southwest part was consolidated with the Tri-Center district and the extreme northwest part was consolidated with the Woodbine district. Since that time many of the local boys and girls have been regulars on the football, basketball, baseball, softball, wrestling and track teams of these schools.

At present, Portsmouth has C.Y.O. basketball. Some of the boy's coaches were: Ed Leinen, Jim Reinig, Tom Leinen, Frank Funk, Mike Huebert and Bob Schmitz.

The boy's C.Y.O. won the K.C. Tournament of 1977.

Some coaches of the girl's teams were Dolores Fuhs, Richard Ohlinger, Rita Schmitz, Bernadine Hayes, Karen Oloff, Leona (Grote) Bladt, Shirley Mumm and Loretta Vonnahme. The girls won the 1973 C.Y.O. Tournament at Panama with Richard Ohlinger coaching.

Nick Bruck Family Softball Team

The Bruck softball team has been playing as a family team since 1977. They have played only in tournaments when the family is able to get together.

Nick Bruck Family Softball Team
Nick Sr., Alma, Randy, Janet, Jolene Roecker, Joan Ingram, Rick, Joyce Larsen, Bob, Ron and Nick Jr.

The team consists of family members and spouses. A cousin, Colleen Carroll has occasionally played when one of the girls was unable to play.

Their first tournament was in 1977 at the West Y.M.C.A. in Omaha, Nebr. where they took 1st place in a 32 team tournament. Other tournaments were: 1977 - Avoca - 1st place, 1978 - West Y.M.C.A. Omaha - 2nd place, 1978,79 and 80 - Persia Invitational - 1st place, 1980 Logan Chamber of Commerce - 1st place, 1980 - Glenwood Jaycee's - 2nd place, 1981 -Logan Chamber of Commerce - 2nd place.

Nick Bruck, Sr. was a little league coach for 25 years.

Family members play during the summer on 13 different teams other than the family team.

Stein Brothers Bowling Teams
Row 1: Bill, Albert (Pete), Don, Larry and Paul.
Row 2: Their mother, Helen, Carl Jr., Bob, Ken, Jim and Alfred. The Steins' bowled at the State Bowling Tournament in 1980-81. This was the first time in the history of this tournament that two teams of brothers had ever bowled there. Their mother, Helen, tailored their bowling shirts.

Do You Remember

Charlie Gallagher hauling a load of players to a ballgame at a neighboring town with his old Chevy.

Basketball games at the legion hall - the old coal furnace - shooting under the low arches to make a basket.

Going to a baseball game in Red Leinen's truck.

Joe Leinen and Alfred (Chick) Ohlinger striking out batters with their famous out drop.

Charles (Fat) Howe and Leo (Steve) Ohlinger catching and digging the ball out of the dirt on the third strike.

Phil Herkenrath playing third base.

Alfred (Chick) Ohlinger, Mel Book and Frank Funk's tape measure home runs.

Jack Slaven stealing second base - sliding in head first.

Bernard (Bun) Herkenrath and Bunny Gubbels playing center field and taking a hit or extra base away from the batter.

Ron (Peanuts) Reinig playing shortstop.

Paul (Tootles) Leinen batting - pitcher throws ball over outside corner of base chest high - "Goodbye Baseball!"

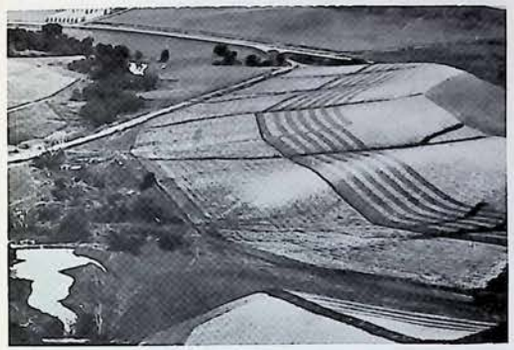
Before night baseball and T.V. the tavern operator would keep the box score of the World Series games. People who couldn't listen to the game on the radio would come in at night, look at the box score and talk over the game.

M.E. Leinen running the old bowling alley at St. Mary's Parish Picnic.

Did You Know?

In the 1920's before radio and news service the Omaha markets were received at a central point at Harlan at 10:30 a.m. and were relayed to the State Bank of Portsmouth and posted there before noon each day.

Natural Resources And Disasters



Contour farming in Cass Twp. Note ASCS Bin Site in upper left hand corner of picture.

Mosquito Creek - 1982

Mosquito Creek bottom flooded - 1916

View of part of downtown Portsmouth after the July 8, 1940 tornado.

Conservation

The natural resources are basically water, air, soil, vegetation, animal life, minerals, etc. Without them man could not live. But man has found that he must use them wisely and maintain or replenish them whenever possible. This is conservation. In the past few years we have come to appreciate these resources more and more, as our air, water and environment show signs of deterioration from careless and excessive use.

The farmers of Cass Township have a very deep subsoil but only a few inches of top soil. They have realized for many years that we must preserve this soil, as can be seen by the amount of terraces, dams, contour farming, strip cropping, minimum till and recently no till farming.

Cass residents have been active in the promotion of conservation since the district was organized in 1942. The following people have served as district commissioners: Duane Linden, Bill and Tom Grote, Matt Reinig, Vince Schmitz, Joe Schmitz, and at present Michael T. Leinen.

In 1957, it was decided to divide the Mosquito watershed into two watersheds. the Mosquito of Harrison County and the Upper Mosquito. The Upper Mosquito comprises the communities of Earling, Panama, and Portsmouth. The first directors were: Ambrose Muenchrath, Ted Pauley, and Joe Schmitz. The bylaws for the watershed were adopted April 3, 1975. At this meeting Ambrose Muenchrath, who had served since the watershed was organized, resigned and Michael T. Leinen was elected chairman. Jack Wendt represents Cass Township; Bernard Leinen, Washington Township; Dennis Gaul, Westphalia; Joe Reischl North Hwy. 37; Alban Gross, South Hwy. 37; Jerry Lapke, at large; Joe Leuschen, Sec. Treas. All the above are still serving on the watershed board.

On June 7, 1978, an extensive tour of the watershed was conducted. Over 200 people including local and state conservationists, politicians, businessmen, extensionists, clergy and other interested people made the tour. Buses for the tour were provided by Wilson Seed Corn Co. of Harlan. The state committee then approved the project, so that the watershed would then be eligible for assistance in conservation practices, such as construction of structures, terraces, tile, waterways, ponds, etc.

This Upper Mosquito Watershed is as follows:

Total area is 50,712 acres and 808 square miles.

Number of farms: 250

District Cooperators: 219 with 36,356 acres.

Terraces: 269 miles

Dams: 13

Conservation tillage: 25,000 acres

Miles of terraces built in 1979: 18.4

Land use is as follows:

Cropland: 87%

Towns: 6%

Pasture: 7%

The first cooperator with a farm plan in Cass Township was Mrs. Edith Linden, who signed a cooperator agreement in 1943.

Farms and methods of farming have changed drastically over the years. The moldboard plow was the first method of preparing the soil for planting by turning under crop residue and sod. Then it was discovered that land would erode less if some of the residue was left on the surface. This was accomplished by deep disking instead of plowing. Today the trend is toward no till where the corn and soybeans are planted in slots with little or no preparation on the land.

The large diesel tractor has replaced the horse and the smaller tractor for power. The combine has replaced hand harvesting. Most hogs and cattle are fed in confinements instead of lots and fields. Watering, feeding cattle and hogs, drying grain, etc. are all done with the aid of electric power.

Crops today are fertilized with chemical fertilizer. Weeds are controlled with herbicides, and insects are controlled with pesticides. There is some question whether chemicals used today are causing pollution. Although they do result in increasing yields.

In 1979, Cass Township had 114 farms with 22,689 acres of recorded farmland. With 11,518 acres of corn: 5,100 acres of soybeans: 868 acres of oats: 444 acres of other crops: 1,819 acres of hay and pasture.

Number of Farms		Bushels of Corn Per Acre
1935	132	55
1955	120	26.4 this year was very short on moisture
1979	114	120
1980	114	103

Prices paid at Portsmouth elevator per bushel are as follows:

	Corn	Barley	Wheat	Oats	Soybeans
1907	.48	.69	.79	.43	
1981	3.00	2.20	3.75	1.80	7.50

In 1875, Cass Township had 865 acres of improved land: 1600 acres of unimproved land: 117 acres of timber: 725 acres in cultivation: 477 acres of Indian corn produced 3,554 bushels; 38 acres of oats produced 260 bushels; 172 acres of wheat produced 315 bushels; 9 acres of barley produced 161 bushel; 704 tons of hay from wild grass. There were 2,729 rods of fence and 85 rods of hedge.

Our streams, creeks, and rivers are protected now as no one is allowed to dispose refuse in them, a practice used quite extensively until the last five years. The residents can now use the County Landfill.

Times and methods have changed and in a rural community where tilling the soil is so important we should always remember the motto of the Shelby County Conservation District. "Each Man Leaves His Imprint In The Land Whether He Steals From It Or Cherishes It."

Weather And Storms

According to early records a very destructive hail storm passed through Cass Township in July of 1874, entirely destroying the crops. Some of the hailstones weighed as much as five pounds, and crashed through roofs and sides of buildings, also killing much livestock in the open.

Another hailstorm hit on June 1, 1883, destroying most of the crops in the area.

On June 4, 1925, around 6:00 p.m., a tornado struck east of Portsmouth. Starting at the P.F. Leinen farm (where Louie Leinen now lives) it completely destroyed the barn. John Leinen (who lived on the farm where Neil Petsche lives now) saw the roof of the P.F. Leinen barn whirling in the air and being torn apart. He went into his house where

Louie Leinen by barn destroyed in 1925 tornado at P.F. Leinen Farm.

the Matt Olig family lived with him. The tornado struck the house taking the roof off but no one was injured. All of the other buildings on this farm were destroyed.

John J. Leinen Farm after 1925 tornado.

The storm moved northeast and Helena Sondag (Mrs. Dick Sondag), who now lives in Des Moines, gives this account of the storm: "We were living on the Joe Sondag eighty (where Ted Sondag lives now) when the tornado struck about 6:00 p.m. We had two children, three and a half and two years old. It started to hail and I remember the kids going out to pick up some odd shaped pieces of ice. Later it got real dark and Dick looked out the south door and saw the tornado coming. He yelled at me to grab one of the kids and in a few minutes the house was struck, but the kitchen room that we were in stayed together. The rest of the house was torn apart, and what was left was turned and pushed partly off the foundation. The cellar filled up with water so we were lucky we didn't go down there. We all landed in the northeast corner of the kitchen, a china cabinet on top of us. Bill was cut with flying glass but not real serious. We were able to get out and walk to our neighbors, the Julius Wiese home. Lots of people came out that night and the next day and everyone was so good to help us. We stayed at the Julius Wiese home until our house was built back up again."

This storm went on north severely damaging several farms in the Panama area.

Another hailstorm hit the area on June 2, 1935, severely damaging the crops.

1936 is a year that will never be forgotten by those who lived through this time. The winter was bitterly cold. For thirty days straight, from Jan. 19 until Feb. 19, the temperature dropped below the zero mark. Fifteen of these days the temperature was from 25 to 35 below zero. During this time there were several blizzards and snow piled up as high as the eaves on many buildings. Nearly all of the roads were blocked. The low spots and cuts in the roads drifted full of snow. In this era there was very little power equipment to move the snow and many country people were snowbound for weeks. Farmers would start to town with team and bobsled (wagon box on a sled), picking up neighbors along the way. They would take the path with the least snow, often driving through the fields, laying down fences, and scooping by hand to get through. In town they would get groceries, supplies, and mail for themselves and neighbors.

Opening the road northwest of Portsmouth for the funeral of Harry Gibson Sr., March, 1936.

The ground was frozen before all this snow fell and when the spring thaw came most of the water ran off and flooded the low ground downstream.

There was very little rain that spring and summer. There were long periods with over 100 degree temperatures (in the shade). Along with this heat and strong southwest winds the wheat, oats, and barley was ripened in a couple of days. Most of the crops that the drought and heat didn't take, the grasshoppers did.

July 8, 1940 is a date remembered by young and old alike, who lived in and around Portsmouth, on that fateful night when a tornado and hail storm struck a devastating blow to buildings and cropland. The day had been hot and sultry, particularly for those cutting and shocking oats. Many farmers were out that day spreading poison bran for the grasshoppers, and making creosote barriers to stop the chinch bugs from invading the corn fields. Much of the corn was in full tassel.

Corn field after hailstorm - 1940.

Portsmouth after tornado - July 8, 1940.

St. Mary's Church.

Portsmouth after tornado - July 8, 1940.

Leo J. Ohlinger Harness Shop.

Unloading Relief Supplies after the storm.

The tornado and hailstorm struck shortly before midnight, and every building in town was damaged to a certain extent, except the city hall and bank. The estimated damage in town ranged from sixty to eighty thousand dollars.

Nearly 600 farmers suffered some damage (mostly from the hail) with many losing their total crop. Twenty thousand acres of corn and over ten thousand acres of small grain were destroyed as the wind and hail combined to pound the plants into the earth. Very few victims of the storm had hail insurance. The hailstorm lasted about 45 minutes with hail golf ball to baseball size. The hail laid in drifts for days. Twelve inches of rain fell with this storm. Much livestock was lost by drowning, struck by lightning, or washed away. The Mosquito Creek was over flowing most of the next day, and all low ground around Portsmouth was under water.

Trees were uprooted and those left standing were stripped bare of leaves. Nearly all birds and wild life, above and below the ground were killed by hail or were drowned, but the chinch bugs survived. The day after the storm they were sitting thick on the fence posts.

It took years for the wildlife and birds to get back to normal numbers.

Most wells were polluted from flooding surface water and water had to be hauled in until the wells could be cleaned and disinfected.

In town few windows were left in homes and buildings. A number were injured by broken glass and one man, August Von Tersch, suffered a broken shoulder and arm. Many took refuge in cellars and caves. The Catholic Church steeple crashed to the ground and all the windows were broken in the school. The Jim White cream station was destroyed and the portable scale was wound around a cream can. Steel signal light poles at the Milwaukee Railroad crossing were completely doubled up. The Pat. R. Monahan implement building was completely destroyed, as was the Leo Ohlinger harness and shoe repair shop. There a coil of rope was wound around an overall which was hanging on the wall, and tacks were driven into a hammer handle. Heavy tools from the Leo Monahan garage were swirled through the air and hurled into the side of the John Rosenthal house (where Galen Pauley lives now). Railroad service was disrupted by washed out tracks, and telephone and electric service was not restored until 24 to 36 hours later.

As the news of the disastrous storm spread across the state, offers of help were many and varied. The Harlan and Neola American Legion assisted in patrolling to prevent looting. The County Red Cross responded with an offer of $500 for relief to storm victims. Farm Bureau members donated foodstuffs and products. Soil experts from Iowa State College inspected ravaged areas and recommended planting chinch bug resistant crops such as soy beans, rape for pasture, and buckwheat for chicken feed. The Farm Security Administration made loans available for rehabilitation of farm families to purchase necessary livestock and feed.

The State Department of Health sent doctors to provide free vaccinations. Nurseries donated free garden seed that was distributed for late summer gardens. Radio stations WHO in Des Moines and KMA in Shenandoah made appeals for contributions for relief funds of cash and grain. Six radio stations staged a Portsmouth Relief Benefit Radio Show at the county fairgrounds on August 2nd which was attended by approximately 3,000 and over $500 was received from the sale of tickets for this benefit. The admission prices charged at that time were .25 for adults and .10 for children.

A local relief committee consisting of Father Gaul, John Herkenrath, John Rosenthal, and Ernie Schell was formed and Joe Leinen was appointed relief director. Donations were received from seventy towns scattered over Iowa and included such items as hay, corn, oats, wheat, cattle feed, seed corn, groceries and clothing. In all, ninety-five truck loads of donated goods were received and distributed to those suffering losses from the storm.

Inspired by the spontaneous offers of help and their own initiative, the local people immediately began to prepare their fields for emergency forage crops. Homes and buildings were gradually repaired but the scars and memories of that fearful night linger on.

The night of Nov. 10, 1940 started out with steady rain. After midnight Nov. 11, it kept getting colder and the rain turned to snow and eventually turned into a full scale blizzard. By daylight the temperature had dropped below zero. It snowed all that day and part of the next night. Chickens sitting in the trees were frozen solid. Livestock in the fields were covered with ice and snow and pushed together so close that much livestock was smothered under the heavy snow and ice.

Ed Lawrence had a large young apple orchard on the north edge of Portsmouth. This quick freeze killed nearly all of these trees.

July 10 and 11, 1956 the temperature was 110 degrees with strong southwest winds. These two days ruined the corn crop as it was tasseling and silking at this time. The heat dried up the tassels and the corn didn't pollinate.

Ray Pitsch in his lane. Winter of 1975.

The winter of 1975 also produced many snow storms and many roads were drifted shut.

On June 14, 1980 a bad hail and windstorm struck the north half of the Portsmouth area. Crops were severely damaged along with much damage to buildings and vehicles which were setting outside.

Mosquito Creek

The main stream of water in the Portsmouth vicinity is the Mosquito Creek which flows through Cass Township toward its junction with the Missouri River. The origin of

the name, Mosquito, is believed to have come from the Indian word, musketo, which meant meadow.

The Mosquito Creek meandered through Cass Township, often flooding the rich bottom ground. In the early fall of 1915 a floating dragline was constructed south of Panama, Iowa, near the township line close to what is called now the "Kennedy Road." The dragline was built on skids and was steam driven. The creek was then dammed and when the water was high enough, the dragline was moved into the creek and the straightening process of the creek began. On the top of this dragline a two story house was built with about three rooms and this is where the crew of seven men ate and slept, working around the clock seven days a week.The winter brought a lot of snow and with so much ice in the creek, there was fear that the ice would crush the dragline. To avoid this possibility more men were brought in and they dynamited the ice ahead and behind the dragline to break up the ice. This proved to be successful and as the spring progressed the creek was dredged and finally completed. The creek was constructed 24 feet wide and 12 feet deep but deepened and widened considerably as it flowed through Cass Township. The fall of the Mosquito Creek is six feet to one mile in this area. Laterals were constructed at the same time of the dredging as the land adjacent to the creek was swampy. This increased the value of the land. The project was paid for by county graduated taxes voted on by the landowners of the drainage district.

Dredging the Mosquito Creek - 1916.

Wildlife

When the first settlers came to this area, they came across the following animals; elk, deer, beaver, raccoon, mink, coyote, muskrat, red and gray fox, badger, opossum, striped and spotted skunk, pocket gopher, cottontail and jack rabbit, chipmunk, striped and gray squirrels, bob cat, weasel and various mice and moles.

The elk have disappeared, but the deer are about as plentiful as the early times. A season is opened on them every fall by permit for shotgun slugs and bow and arrow. High powered rifles are not permitted. Some permits are for bucks only and some for either sex. The flavor of the venison has lost some of its gamey quality for the deer now have a lot of grain, especially corn.

The beaver was once considered extinct in this area, but now are becoming a nuisance. They build their dams in the small streams causing them to overflow into the fields. They have found that cornstalks are good to build dams

Hail Storm Cloud by Portsmouth, 1980

and earcorn can be stored for winter food. The dams at times do make nice ponds for fishing. There is a season on them, but at the present time, the furs are not in great demand. An unskinned beaver brings about fifty cents per pound.

The raccoons are plentiful and are hunted and trapped in the open season. They have adapted well to modern farming having moved into barns and other buildings. Their fondness for sweet corn has not diminished and they seem to be always one day ahead of the gardener in harvesting it.

Badgers are common and disliked. In their digging for gophers and squirrels, they ruin many terraces and leave large holes for cattle and horses to step in.

The red fox is again becoming common after going through a siege of mange that greatly reduced their numbers. There is an open season on them every year for both trapping and hunting. The gray fox is probably extinct in this area and has always been rare. The Petsche boys shot one out of a tree in the Wiese timber in the late 1950's. It was the only one the author ever saw in this area.

The coyote was rather rare in the 1920's and 1930's but it has adapted well and is now quite numerous. The season is open year around for trapping and hunting. There was a bounty on the coyote until the late 1960's - $10.00 on adults and $4.00 on cubs. The snowmobile, four wheel drive pickup and CB radio were used to hunt coyote until some restrictions were placed on their use. The sound of the coyote howling at night is something to be heard. When the cubs are first learning to howl, they will get every dog in the area barking.

At one time, many farmers thought fox's and coyote's main diet consisted of chicken, but since there are very few chicken flocks on the farms now, farmers are finding the coyote's real value is in destroying rodents.

Mink and muskrat are trapped all along the small streams. The mink population seems to stay rather constant, but the muskrat population seems to cycle. There is a saying that a muskrat pelt is usually the same value as a bushel of corn. Mink prices vary according to women's styles.

The striped skunk, opossum and badger are usually caught in sets for other animals. The spotted skunk was common a few years ago but is now on the endangered list and the season is closed.

The fox squirrel and cottontail rabbit are hunted for food. Jack rabbits, coons, opossums, beaver and occasionally muskrat are eaten by some people and are said to be delicious. Old timers tell of rabbit hunting years ago. In the winter time, they would pack rabbits in barrels, unskinned, and ship them to market in Chicago.

The gray and ground squirrel are still plentiful in hay ground, pastures and roadsides and are disliked for they are very fond of newly planted corn. Not much effort is made to keep them in check, however.

The bob cat seems to be extinct. Joe Schmitz shot one along the Mosquito Creek in 1956. One was spotted several times in what was the Julius Wiese timber as late as 1937. Dick Sondag said his dog ran it off the roadbank and into the timber. When the dog came out of the timber, he looked worse than if he had hit several strands of barbed wire on a dead run.

Chipmunks were found in some of the timbers in the area. The last one the author saw was in 1939. There may still be some yet, but when sighted, they may be confused with ground squirrels as they look alike except that the chipmunk is smaller and brighter in color.The pocket gopher is one of the biggest pests we have. In spite of a twenty cent bounty on them, they make some alfalfa fields look like gopher fields.

Rope wound around overall at the Leo Ohlinger Harness Shop. Tornado - July 8, 1940.

Pat R. Monahan Implement Building - July 8, 1940

Portsmouth Gun Club with foxes and coyotes, 1954. Louie Leinen, John Ohlinger, Nick Bruck, Harold Leinen, Joe Leinen, Jr., Orv Leinen, Joe Schmitz, Harvey Leinen, Ernie Lefeber, Don Leinen, Ron (Peanuts) Reinig, Jim Leinen, Zeno Leinen, Gerald Anderson, Francis (Red) Leinen, Gene Gessert, Gene Reinig, Richard Leinen, Andy Peterson, P.J. Ohlinger and Frank Gessert Jr.

Do you remember...

Old timers sitting on the benches in front of the business places.

The men wearing white shirt and bib overalls to town on Wednesday and Saturday nights.

The old bridge across the Mosquito east of town when the highway ran north of Joe Patton's house.

Some of the first car owners would race with saddle horses or team and buggy.

Present Businesses

Up Main Street - 1982

Down Main Street - 1982

View to the north - 1982

View to the south - 1982

State Bank of Portsmouth

In 1884, Dallas F. Paul, a former farmer, moved to Portsmouth and operated a private bank for several years in a building he erected next door east from the present bank location.

Old Bank Building

On June 20, 1892, he sold out to a group of Portsmouth men, Russell Scroggin, Peter Korth, Peter Herkenrath (father of John), Nicholas Wehr, Peter Gubbels, James Lawrence, George Sims, Nicholas Greiner, Isaac Houghton, and Issac Copeland, who organized the State Bank of Portsmouth, with Mr. Korth as its first president. In 1910 Peter Herkenrath became president. Joseph Yunck joined the bank as cashier and he was to remain with the bank until he retired in 1936. In June 1911, John J. Herkenrath was elected a director, and in 1915 he became president on the death of his father and served in that position until his own death in 1972. Leo A. Monahan has been associated with the bank as director since 1923, and for many years has also served as vice president.

Bank Building Remodeled - 1982

In 1925, Ernest A. Schell joined the bank as cashier, serving until his death in 1950. A.L. Poe joined the bank in 1936 as assistant cashier when Joseph Yunck retired, and became cashier at Mr. Schell's death. He continued with the bank in that capacity until 1959 when he moved to Texas. He was succeeded by Lester Schmitz, who had commenced working for the bank in 1951.

In May of 1943, the bank consolidated with the Panama Savings Bank, our neighbor to the north. Robert Sullivan managed the Panama Office and served as vice president until his death in 1972.

Gerald Waltz began working at the office in Panama in 1950. In 1959 he moved to Portsmouth where he is now executive vice president and cashier.

Ethel Heller, currently assistant cashier at the bank, started in 1965 when Ron Reinig resigned to purchase the Rocket. Don Muell began his employment at the bank as an O.E. student during his final year of high school in 1971. He now is assistant vice president. Karen Oloff heads the bookkeeping department. She has been at the bank since 1974. Beverly Kohles started in Panama in 1960, then transferred to Portsmouth in 1963.

Gerald Lapke is president of the State Bank of Portsmouth. Also at the Panama office are Janice Theulen, Jay Fahn and Jean Keane.

Construction of the new bank addition and remodeling of the present bank building, which was built in 1916, began in July of 1981. The additional space will provide needed room to conduct modern day banking and also give customers the convenience of drive-in banking facilities.

An interesting side light of the Bank's history was the bank robbery which took place in 1912. The robbers used dynamite to blow the safe's door and though the explosion woke the townspeople, the robbers managed to get the money and escape before anyone could respond.

Bank safe after robbery, Portsmouth - 1912

Monahan Oil Company

One of the oldest businesses in town is the Monahan Oil Company. Leo A. Monahan opened a gas station April 1, 1915 in the building known as the Leinen Livery Barn. In 1917 Leo built a new gas station in the present location. In 1930 Leo remodeled the building to it's present condition. He sold Ford model cars from 1917 to 1928 and then also sold Chevrolet cars from 1928 to 1945. Leo also sold IHC tractors and implements and Case tractors and implements. Leo added the tank wagon service in 1928. Leo first had

Leo A. Monahan at the Garage remodeled in 1930.

Sinclair gas but changed to Mobil products in 1930. Leo sold the business to his sons, Cecil and Cyril Monahan in 1945 and they continued to sell Chevrolet cars until 1951. Cyril Monahan bought his brother Cecil's interest in the company in 1960 when Cecil moved to Harlan. Then in 1969 Cyril sold the business to his sons, Neil and Ken Monahan who are the present owners. Mike, son of Neil, and Jeff, son of Ken also work at the station while they attend high school.

Monahan Oil Company Employees

Henry Heller and son, Alvin, inside Standard Oil Station - late 1930's.

Heller Oil Company

Heller Oil Company is the oldest business in Portsmouth under continuous family ownership. It has been in the Henry Heller family for over fifty years.

H. B. Heller bought the Standard Oil Tank Wagon from Joe W. Gau on August 5, 1930. He also bought the gas station business from Fred Brath. Fred Brath had torn down the old hotel buildings and built the brick buildings which now house Heller Oil Company. Richard Brath worked for Henry Heller for two years. John Heller, his brother, worked for five years.

In 1940, the tornado destroyed part of the gas station and a good share of the bulk plant on the south edge of town. They were both rebuilt.

Phil and Rich Heller

As Henry's four sons, Alvin, Richard, Philip and Veral, grew up, each started to help out in the business. Alvin went into the Navy in 1944 and on his return continued to work in the business. Richard had been working part time for a number of years and went full time in 1947. He entered the Navy in 1951 and on his return he continued in the business. Phil had been working part time and went full time in the early 1950's. Russell Lefeber drove one of the tank wagons for Henry for two years. Phil was called to active duty with the Army Reserves in 1961 but returned to the business at the end of his tour of duty. Veral, the fourth son, worked intermittently as he was growing up but chose to go into the field of education instead. The business during these years became known as H. B. Heller & Sons.

Henry sold the Standard tank wagon part of the business to Alvin in 1964. Rich and Phil bought the gas station part of the business on January 1, 1965. They formed a partnership and it is now known as Heller Oil Company. Since taking over the business, they have expanded considerably. They added a service truck for "on the farm" tire service. They carry several lines of car, implement and tractor tires. They also specialize in mechanical work.

As each of Richard's three boys reached high school age they worked after school and in the summer. Gary and Bob worked in the summer and during their vacations while attending college. Paul, the youngest of the three, is now attending college and working when he is home. Phil's son, Rog, is in the 5th grade, so there is yet another "Heller" boy to carry on.

Heller Gas & Oil

Heller Gas & Oil is owned and operated by Al Heller. It was formed from a part of the parent business of H.B. Heller & Sons which was owned by Al's father, Henry Heller. The original business was founded in August of 1930 and had the product trade name of Standard Oil Co.

Henry Heller (on back of truck) with Standard Oil Salesman, Roy Ridge - 1930's.

This was changed to Amoco Oil Co. in 1970. Al bought the tank wagons from his father on Jan. 1, 1964.

The business is a distributor of Amoco Petroleum Products in the western Shelby and eastern Harrison county areas. The bulk plant is located on the south edge of Portsmouth.

Alvin Heller at Bulk Plant.

Al's father still helps out on the trucks when extra help is needed and during vacation time. This business has been in the Heller family continuously for over 51 years.

Kohles Barber Shop

Kohles Barber Shop is the only barber shop in Portsmouth. It is owned and operated by Gary Kohles. Gary opened the shop on March 1st, 1963. The building on main street was then owned by Ed Rosenthal. In 1967 Gary bought the building and remodeled the east part of the building where Mr. Rosenthal had lived and put in a beauty shop which he rented out to Jan Hoffmann of Panama.

Gary Kohles and son, Marvin.

The barber shop is open only on Saturday during the day and on Wednesday and Saturday nights. Gary washes and cuts hair but no longer gives shaves. He also sells and repairs Norelco shavers. His grandfather, Fred Kohles, was a barber in Earling until his death in 1939, and Gary has followed in his footsteps.

Leinen Hardware

On May 10, 1954 I purchased the hardware business in Portsmouth, from A.C. (Ike) Ohlinger and Edward Rosenthal. It has been The Leinen Hardware since that date.

Immediately I started to expand the business into a general farm supply store. This included fertilizer, chemicals, seeds and have had a Dekalb Seed franchise for the last 26 years.

Our business also includes General Electric appliances, plumbing, heating, cooling, wiring, well work, pipe lines, grain bins and small implements.

Original Leinen Hardware Store.

I started in building No. 1. Building No. 2 was erected in 1962, and presently houses our office, showroom, shop and storage. Building No. 3, our bulk fertilizer plant was erected in 1964. Storage building No. 4 was purchased in 1967.

Store Building, warehouse and personnel.

The original building No. 1 was taken down a few years ago & storage building No. 5 was erected in 1980 on the same lot.

Bulk Fertilizer Plant

Anhydrous Equipment

When I purchased the business in 1954, I had only one employee, Charles Gallagher, who had been a previous owner with A.C. Ohlinger.

Our present staff consists of myself, my son Paul, who joined the business in 1970 after returning from Viet Nam: Richard Langenfeld, 25 years; Edward Leinen, 14 years; Phil Gau, 10 years; Ted Sondag, 8 years; Mike Blum, 5 years; Kenneth Slaven 4 years.

Storage Building

On behalf of my wife Barbara, our children, all the employees & myself, I want to thank the people of Portsmouth, all the surrounding communities, and especially those engaged in farming. It is with your support that we have been able to expand and serve you better.

Thank You
Paul J. Leinen

G & R Feed & Grain

Bowles Grain was bought from Bob Bowles July 1, 1967, by Leonard Rau and Phil Gau. It was then named G & R Feed and Grain. At that time it was run by Phil Gau, Leonard Rau and Paul Bowles. All the grain was shipped by rail. Five years later Phil sold his share to Leonard and Alice Rau. The first semi truck was bought in 1973 because of a box car shortage. The rail service is now gone, and the grain is moved by three semi trucks. Presently, G & R Feed & Grain is operated by Leonard Rau, owner, and Al Schechinger, manager, who is retiring and will be replaced by Mike Bruck. Rhonda Rau is bookkeeeper. Jon Pauley is millman and Stan Slaven, Dave Miller and Ralph Kramer are semi drivers.

G. and R. Company

Portsmouth Locker

Glenn Carstens and Terry Carstens, who are brothers, were born and grew to adulthood at Wayne, Nebr. Glen served for three and one half years in the United States Air Force. Following his tour of duty, Glen had various jobs as working in a packing house and as a truck driver. Terry worked for Ill. Beef Packer in Port Bryan, Ill. In 1979 Terry and Glen decided to go into business for themselves and purchased the Portsmouth Locker from Gary Wilke and they are the present owners.

Terry and Glen Carstens

Club 191

One of the newest businesses in Portsmouth is the Club 191. It has a lounge and also a dining room with a seating capacity of 200, and can also accommodate private parties. It is located at the site of the former Fullerton Lumber Co. The Club 191 had its grand opening on Dec. 27, 1978. It is owned and operated by Jerry and Rita Christensen and their sons, Mike and Scott.

Club 191

Kenkel Excavating and Housemoving

Marvin Kenkel started his excavating and housemoving business in 1963 after eleven years of working with Ben Arkfeld, former house mover from Panama, Iowa.

Marvin bought the acre of ground where his house now stands, moved in a small building for storage and purchased the necessary equipment for his business.

He does conservation work for the farmers in addition to his excavating business and house moving and raising. He specializes in digging basements under existing houses.

Marvin Kenkel digging basement for Marvin Leinen's house.

Several men have worked with Marvin since he started business. They are Fred Andersen, Joe Hein and Lavere Skalla. Rich Ohlinger currently works with him. Marvin's son , Steve, also worked with his father while attending high school and later during the summers while attending college.

Marvin's business takes him over a wide area and he has become well known in his line of work.

Pauley Auto Recycling

Pauley Auto Recycling, located south of Portsmouth on Highway 191 has been operating in the Portsmouth-Persia area since 1977. With the addition of the new shop in 1978, it has been expanding and growing since.Owner operator of the business is Kevin Pauley. A definite family-run business, every one helps out. His wife Karla, children Kay, Kelly, Kerri, and Kirby work on a part time basis. Full time workers include daughter Kathleen and her husband, Ken Cue.

Pauley Auto Recycling specializes in custom work, fiberglass repair, auto body rebuilding and used car and truck sales. They also sell used parts.

Peggy's Beauty Shop

Peggy's Beauty Shop is among the newest businesses in Portsmouth. Peggy Kenkel completed her cosmetology training at Capitol Beauty School in Omaha in 1971 and worked in Omaha until June 1973, when she married Ed Leinen of Portsmouth and came here to live. In 1978 they moved to their present home and in February of 1979 Peggy opened her present beauty shop in her home known as Peggy's Beauty Shop.

Peg Leinen owner of Peggy's Beauty Shop.

Lester Schmitz in front of his Insurance Office.

Portsmouth Insurance Agency

Portsmouth Insurance Agency is owned and operated by Lester Schmitz. He is a member of the Professional Insurance Agents of Iowa. His services include life, auto, fire, hail, liability, casualty, and bonds.

Before owning the Insurance Agency he was assistant cashier and cashier at the State Bank of Portsmouth for fourteen years. He wrote insurance while working there and in 1959 he bought the agency. In 1965 he moved to his own office which is located on the main street of Portsmouth.

Lester is the City Clerk and has served in that capacity for 26 years. He joined the Volunteer Fire Dept. in 1955 and is still an active member. He has served as fire chief, treasurer, and secretary.

He is a member of St. Mary's parish and has served as chairman of the parish council. He and his wife Rita have five children.

Jan's Beauty Salon

Jan Hoffmann originally lived at Papillion, Nebr. She completed her cosmetology training at Capitol Beauty School in Omaha and was employed there for a year before she married Donald Hoffmann of Panama, Iowa on Sept. 5, 1970. She then worked for a short time at a salon in Harlan before acquiring her own shop in Portsmouth in November 1970, which is known as Jan's Beauty Salon. It is located in the same building as the barber shop.

Jan Hoffmann in her Beauty Shop.

Ron Reinig with employees, Elaine Wendt and Vi Skalla.

Rocket Bar

Ronald Reinig, on graduating from high school, was employed at the State Bank of Portsmouth from May 15, 1954 until March 1, 1959 when he left to serve two years in the U.S. Army. He returned to his job at the bank March 17, 1961. He continued working at the bank until Oct. 1, 1965 when he resigned his position to purchase the Rocket Bar on the south side of Main Street from Nick M. Schechinger. On Nov. 1, 1978 Ron purchased the business known as "Phil's Cafe" and also the building from Phil Herkenrath and on Dec. 1, 1978, moved to his present location on main street where he operates his business known as the Rocket Bar. Ron has two employees: Mrs. Al (Vi) Skalla and Mrs. Jack (Elaine) Wendt. Ron makes his home with his father, Joe F. Reinig. The Rocket is the only tavern in Portsmouth at this time.

Town Cupboard

Another one of the latest businesses here began when ground was broken Oct. 21, 1978 for a new grocery store. The town had been without a grocery store for about two years. It is located on the property which formerly had a grocery store and cream station. The store was completed and opened on Feb. 1, 1979, carrying a complete line of groceries; including a meat counter, fresh and frozen vegetables and all dairy products. It is owned and operated by Frank and Judy Funk and children. They also employ Mrs. Alan (Loretta) Vonnahme. The store was named by one of the Funk children. The store is franchised through United A G Cooperative of Omaha, Nebr.

Town Cupboard Grocery Store.

Schoemann Trucking

Schoemann Trucking is the only trucking business still operating in Portsmouth at the present time. It is owned and operated by Gene and Thelma Schoemann who are drivers of the two trucks they now own. Gene worked for Ray Thielen as a truck driver from 1948 until 1950 when he left for two years of service with the army. When he returned home from his army duty in 1952, Gene purchased the trucking business of Walt Kleffman. Then he decided to expand his business and purchased the trucking business owned by Pete Jurschak, Jr. in 1954. Gene has continued in the trucking business for the past thirty years.

Huebert Bros. Fence Builders, Roofers

This is a family owned enterprise. It was made a family type business to keep labor cost down and profits a little better. The headquarters of this business is located on a farm, which the Hueberts operate, two and one-half miles northwest of Portsmouth. Due to hard work and support of local communities, businesses and people within these communities, this business became a success.

The business had its birth in 1962. It was a result of a hailstorm that came through the Panama area the last days

Huebert Family shingling Anna Bruck's house.

of August. Gerald Huebert, or Jerry, as he is known by many in the area, was farming near Panama and working for Oppold Lumber. After the hailstorm came through, Franklin Oppold sent him out to repair roofs. After inspecting his work he found out he could roof. The following months he worked for $1.75 per hour and used the trunk of the car to haul the handful of tools. In 1963, he was joined by his brother, Neil, which made it possible to do bigger jobs more efficiently. In 1965, the Hueberts moved to a farm in the Earling-Westphalia area and continued expanding. By 1966, the business had grown to where it was necessary to purchase a truck to haul scaffold and equipment. Also in 1966, they became known as Huebert Bros. Roofers. In 1967 tree service was added to the business which gave them work during the colder seasons of the year.

By 1968-69, with the growing demand of the services which the business was providing, customers were drawn from miles around. Bigger jobs, such as churches and schools, were taken on.Two more brothers of the next generation, Dan and Mike Huebert, joined their dad (Jerry) and uncle in 1971.

In 1973, Jerry and his family moved on the farm they now live on. That same year they took on custom fence building, a trade that Henry Huebert (Jerry's dad), his uncle and brother had started. Also that year, Dennis Huebert, a brother to Dan and Mike joined the crew. They could now roof a complete house in one day or build one-half mile of farm fence in a day.

Jerry says, "Over the past twenty years our business has been good for us. Our work has spread to a five county area. We have worked as far north as Sioux City and as far south as Treynor, Iowa. The greatest satisfaction in working with people is seeing a warm smile of thanks or a sigh of relief of a job well done. Our slogan is "We are the best roofers west of Portsmouth. The difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer."

The Fabric Fair

The newest business to open its doors in Portsmouth is The Fabric Fair which began on Oct. 1, 1981. It has fabrics, a complete line of notions and patterns, also needle work and small gifts. It also takes homemade items on consignment. It is located in the building next to the Post Office which had been occupied for a number of years by cafe operators. The owner and operator of this business is Mrs. Ralph (Eula) Kramer.

Eula and Ralph Kramer in the Fabric Fair.

Portsmouth Housing Corporation

The Portsmouth Housing Corporation was incorporated July 17, 1970, for the purpose of constructing a four apartment complex, to provide low rent housing for the elderly people of low to moderate incomes. The site is the former property of Martin and Anna Behrendt.

Twenty-six signers of incorporation elected the following as officers and directors: president, Robert Reinig; vice-president, Michael T. Leinen; secretary, Robert Grote; treasurer, Gerald Waltz; directors, Stanley Martens, Father Edward Kelly, and Alvin Heller.

Potter Construction received the bid to build for the sum of $39,235. On May 1, 1971, the building was completed with Mr. and Mrs. John M. Pitsch as the first occupants and they continue to reside there. The 1981 occupants also include Raymond Leinen and Bernard Goetzinger.

Portsmouth Housing Corporation Apartments.

Do you remember....

When the wakes for the deceased were held in the homes, but this changed in the mid 1950's.

Pioneer Families

Old settlers and G.A.R. reunion at The Simon Bendon farm southwest of Portsmouth. Mid 1880's.

50th Wedding Anniversary celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias S. Leinen - 1894.

George Baxter Family

George Baxter was born in England in 1849. He was married to Margaretha Yochem. She was born in Michigan city, Michigan in 1855. She was the daughter of Mathia and Helena (Rosenbach) Yochem. They were the parents of eleven children: Mathew; Ella Baxter Clingman; Kate (married Constant Leinen); Henritta (married John Wehr); Francis; Agnes Baxter Hollinger; Henry; Edward; Ann (married Emory Chamberlain); Clara (married James Monahan); Cecelia Baxter Crab. All members of this family are now deceased except Cecelia Crab.

George Baxter Family

George Baxter was a farmer. Margaret Baxter, his wife, served as the midwife to many families in the area for many years. George died in 1905 and Margaret passed away in 1937. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Simon Bendon Family

Simon Bendon was born in Cambria County, Pennsylvania, in 1843. He was the son of Robert and Mary (Frexler) Bendon. He served in the Infantry during the Civil War. His regiment fought in Virginia, Gettysburg, the battles of Antietam, Spottsylvania and Winchester and other engagements. After the war was over, he returned to Pennsylvania. In 1868, he married Anastasia Wagner, daughter of Jacob Wagner. She was born in 1845. They moved to Iowa in 1868, and then to Shelby County in 1879.

Simon Bendon Family

Simon and Anastasia were the parents of eight children: Ira, Isadore, Otha, Giles, Eldeen, (she later became Sister Othilda), Victoria, Nellie Bendon Spracklin, and Gertrude Bendon Gue.

Simon was a farmer and carpenter. He built many houses and barns in the Portsmouth area. He was also postmaster for over fourteen years. Simon died in 1928 and Anastasia died in 1934.

Ludwig Buman Family

Ludwig Buman, a native of Germany and Mary Butcher of Pennsylvania, were married in Muscatine, Iowa. They moved to a farm in Lincoln Twp., southeast of Portsmouth, in 1884, after farming for several years in the Avoca and Westphalia areas.

They were the parents of seven children: John, Mamie, Rose, Joseph, Anne, William and George. Rose, who became a member of the Red Cross Nursing Association, was the first nurse from Iowa to die during World War I.

Mr. Buman was a grain and livestock farmer. His hobby was breeding Shorthorn cattle. Ludwig and Mary Buman were members of St. Mary's Parish until 1914 when they retired and moved to San Diego, California. Later they moved back to Harlan, Iowa, where both of them died. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chris Dreier, Sr. Family

Chris Dreier and Anna Gottburg, both natives of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, were married in Germany in 1871. They were the parents of two children, namely, Chris, Jr. (1872-1931) and Anna M. (1878-1928).

Chris Dreier, Sr. Family

Mr. Drier came with his family to the Portsmouth area in the 1870's. He worked on a crew for the Milwaukee Railroad for several years and farmed near Portsmouth until Chris, Jr. married in 1909. Chris, Sr. died in 1928 and Anna in 1923. They were buried in Cass Township Cemetery. Anna M. Drier, their daughter, married Max Martens, who had come to this country from Germany.

Anselm Elder Family

Anselm Elder was a blacksmith and also ran a dray business in Portsmouth, Iowa. Anselm was born in 1848. He married Emma Miller. Emma, born in 1858, was the daughter of Nicholas (1825-1894) and Susan (1827-1893) Miller. The Elders were the parents of six children· Albert, Kearney, Florence, Sylvia, Marcella and Ed.

Anselm was killed by a runaway horse and carriage in Portsmouth in 1918. His wife passed away in 1935. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. Emma's parents, Nicholas and Susan Miller, are also buried there.

John Fuhs, Sr. Family

John and Eva Reinig Fuhs came to the Portsmouth vicinity from Keokuk County, Iowa in the early 1890's. They moved to a farm two miles north and two miles west of Portsmouth.

John was a native of this country and was born in 1856. Eva was born in Germany in 1861 and came to America with her brothers and sisters, in 1882. Most of Eva's family, the Reinigs, settled in the Portsmouth area. John and Eva's children were: Catherine (who passed away as a toddler); Margaret, married Peter Jurschak; Jacob; Genevieve, married Matt Mikels; Anna, married Andrew Petersen; John; his twin, who died in infancy; Mary Fuhs Mullink and Matthew.

John died in 1926 and Eva in 1907. They were members of St. Mary's Parish and are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peter L. Frederick Family

Peter L. Frederick moved to Portsmouth from Clear Creek Twp., Keokuk County, Iowa when a young man. He was born April 13, 1866, and was the son of John and Eva (Heintz) Frederick. He married Mary Susan Korth on Oct. 13, 1891 at St Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. She was the daughter of Peter and Anna (Leinen) Korth who were among the early settlers in this community. She was born on January 29, 1872.

Peter and Mary Frederick

Peter and Mary were the parents of eight children: John Albert (1892-1893); John Leo (1894-1975), married Bernice Phillipy; Peter (1896-1960), married Isabel Schaben; Frank (1898-1972), married Kathryn Parkinson; Ann (1900), married Bert Noll; Leo Henry (1903-1909); Eva (1906-1978); Albert (1914-1915). Ann is the only surviving member of this family.

Mr. Frederick operated the creamery in Portsmouth for many years. Peter died in 1943 and Mary died in 1954. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. John Leo is buried at Boone, Ia., Peter at Earling Ia., and Eva in Phoenix, Ariz.

Chrisant Gau Family

Chrisant Gau, a native of Wisconsin, was born December 1, 1849, the son of Christ and Anna Gau. He moved to a farm in the northeastern part of Cass Township. He married Anna Mary Pickard, daughter of Mathias and Christine Pickard, at Westphalia in 1871. She was born Feb. 6, 1855. They were the parents of ten children: Joseph, 1873; Arnold, 1875: Peter, 1877; Albert, 1879; Margaret Gau Mumm, 1881; Frederdick, 1883; Christ, 1885; William, 1896; Anna Gau Weihs, 1897; and Cornelius, 1900.

Mr. Gau farmed and then did carpenter work. They retired from the farm and moved to Westphalia. Chrisant and his wife are both buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia, Ia.

Harry Gibson, Sr. Family

Harry Gibson was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, on November 7, 1864. His parents had come from Ireland to West Virginia. Harry was orphaned at an early age and when he was twenty years old he came to Portsmouth, Iowa to visit the Clemons family. They had also lived in Wheeling. He was married on July 5, 1891, at Logan, Iowa, to Jessie White. She was the daughter of Warren and Rachel (Smothers) White, and was born July 5, 1870. They moved to a farm northwest of Portsmouth where they farmed for two years. Due to a crop failure, the family moved to Portsmouth where Harry worked in an elevator for two years. They then moved back to the farm where they lived until his death.

Harry and Jessie Gibson

They were the parents of Bessie Gibson Hansen, 1892; Jessie Gibson Yocom, 1894; Jean Gibson Custer, 1897; Margaret Gibson Stahlnecker Chappell, 1899; Harry H. Gibson, Jr., 1903; Donald Gibson, 1909; Kathryn Gibson Newland, 1914.

Harry Gibson, Sr. died in 1936 and Jessie Gibson in 1952. They are buried in Woodbine, Iowa, cemetery. Bessie Hansen died in 1963 and Jessie Yocum in 1977.

William F. Green Family

William Franklin Green was born Sept. 11, 1842 in Pennsylvania. Nancy Lee Doner was also born in Pennsylvania on Nov. 6, 1840. They were married Oct. 27, 1867, at North Liberty, Johnson County, Iowa. In 1876 they moved to Shelby County. They were some of the first settlers in Cass Township. They purchased a farm there and later gave a corner of the farm to be used as a site for a school. This school was known as "Old Pioneer" and was used for school, church, weddings, funerals and community gatherings.

Wm. and Nancy Green

William Green served in Co. G-6th Iowa Infantry all through the Civil War. He marched with Billy Sherman to the sea. He was wounded, receiving an eye injury.

William and Nancy were the parents of five children: Emery G., Ida May, David Irvin, Alice J. Green Meink, Charles Wesley, and Lee William.

William died in 1902 and Nancy died in 1914. They are both buried in Cass Township Cemetery.

Henry Gries Family

Henry Gries and Pauline Butzloff were married at Maquoketa, Iowa on August 19, 1877. Henry Gries was born December 13, 1857 in Scott County, Iowa. Pauline Butzloff was born March 24, 1862 in Germany. In 1885 they moved to Shelby County where they farmed in Cass Township.

Henry Gries Family

They were the parents of five children, two of whom died in infancy. Their children were James William, Dora Marie, who married Emery Green, and William James.

Henry Gries died in 1921 at his home in Tennant, Iowa. Pauline moved to Randolph, Nebraska in 1925 to be with her sons and died at her home there in 1934. Mr. and Mrs. Gries are buried in the Harlan cemetery.

Francis W. Hainley Family

Francis W. Hainley moved to Shelby County in 1891 from Blair County, Pennsylvania. At the same time, Martha J. Gill, daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Wagner) Gill moved to Portsmouth to live with her aunt after her mother died. Francis and Martha were married on November 24, 1892 in St. Mary's Church in Portsmouth, Iowa. Twelve children were born to this union: Wilfred (1893-1967); Ethel, born 1895, married Frederick Copeland; Bertha, born 1897, married Henry Slaven; Helen, born 1898, married Albert Leinen; Cyril, born 1900, died in infancy; Anne, born 1901, married Jacob Reinig; George, 1903; Clyde (1902-1905); Barbara, born 1907, married Oscar Wilson; Edgar, born 1912; Vivian, born 1912, married Donald Marrin; Rita, born 1915, died in infancy.

F.W. Hainley Family

Mr. Hainley farmed a rented farm from 1892 to 1902 after which he moved to Missouri for less than a year. They then returned to Shelby County and farmed five more years. In 1907, he purchased a half interest in the Cooper Hardware Store in Portsmouth. In 1910 he acquired the other half-interest and became sole proprietor. In 1922, he sold the hardware business to Carl Arnold of Cumberland, Iowa. Carl Arnold later sold it to Gallagher and Greiner. Greiner then sold his interest to A.C. Ohlinger. The business is now owned by Paul Leinen, Sr. and known as Leinen Hardware.

Francis and Martha Hainley moved to California in 1922 because of his health. All of the children, except Helen, went to live in California at one time or other. Francis died in 1929 while on a visit to Shelby County. Martha died in 1966 at the age of 94 years. They are both buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Did You Know?

Chickens running loose in 1886 were declared a nuisance.

Frank Hammes Family

Frank Hammes was born in Feian, Germany, in 1861. He came to Clear Creek, Iowa, and from there to Shelby County, Iowa. His parents were Michael and Margaret (Hammen) Hammes. In 1888, he was married to Susan Ludwig Leinen, the widow of John Leinen. Susan was born in Keokuk County, Iowa, in 1860, the daughter of Michael and Anna Mary (Gross) Ludwig. She came to Shelby County as a bride of John Leinen, residing on a farm east of Portsmouth now owned by her grandson, Richard Sondag. John Leinen died in 1886, leaving her with two small children. They were Rosalia, born in 1882, (later she became Sister M. Amadea OSF), and John M. A son, Nicholas, died in infancy. Frank and Susan Hammes were the parents of three children: Barbara, born in 1889, died in 1893 of the croup; Mary, born 1891, married Joe Sondag; and Margaret, born 1893, married Joe Blum. Frank Hammes died in 1893, leaving Susan four children to care for. Frank farmed and operated a livery stable.

Frank and Susan Hammes

Susan moved to town and supported her family by baking bread, delivering milk from her cows and the small income from her farm. Susan died in 1937. The farm she owned has now been in her family continuously for 100 years.

William Heller Family

William Heller was born in Westphalen, Germany in 1850. He served in the military in Germany for four years. He married Mary C. Burns, also a native of Germany who was born in 1850. Their oldest son, William, was born in Germany. They came to America and settled first at Westphalia, then Earling. Their second son, Joseph, was born while living in that area. William purchased a farm at Portsmouth that was mostly prairie land. Mary C. Heller died in 1894. William Heller then married Mary Book, also a native of Germany, who worked as a hired girl for the Schwarte family at Westphalia. They were the parents of three children; Kathryn (1897-1968), married Nick Schechinger; Henry (1903) and John (1908).

William Heller died on November 18, 1924, and his wife, Mary, shortly thereafter on December 19, 1924. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery which is adjacent to the original Heller family home place.

Peter Herkenrath Family

Peter Herkenrath was born in Germany, February 21, 1851. He was the son of Joseph and Gertrude (Korth) Herkenrath. He attended schools in his native country until he was fifteen years of age. In March of 1869, he sailed for America with his parents, landing in New York, then proceeding to Keokuk County, Iowa. He was married to Mary Ohlinger, a native of Keokuk County, on January 23, 1873. In 1876 he came to Shelby County and bought eighty acres of land. He added to this first investment until he had 400 acres. Peter's father, Joseph Herkenrath, lived with him on the farm. Joseph's wife, Gertrude, died in 1886 at age sixty-five.

Peter Herkenrath Family

Peter and Mary Herkenrath were the parents of eleven children: Gertrude (1873), died very young in Keokuk County; Angela (1875), married William Thomas; John Joseph (1878); Anna (1879), married Giles Bendon; Peter Joseph (1881); Matthias Joseph (1884); Anthony Joseph (1886); William Joseph (1892); Barbara (1890) and Marie (1895).

On November 29, 1889, Peter Herkenrath and Henry Dohrmann purchased the General Store from Burton and Helwig. Peter moved from the farm in 1891 and lived in an older house located on what is now known as Henry Heller's. The present Heller house was built in 1917 by Mrs. Herkenrath after Peter's death in 1915. Mary Herkenrath died in 1919.

In 1906, Peter Herkenrath bought Dohrmann's interest in the store and took his son, John J., as a partner. In 1912, he took another son, Anthony J. into the business and it was known as P. Herkenrath & Sons. His sons continued to operate the business after his death.

Peter Herkenrath was a county surveyor for years and his name is listed on the Court House in Harlan, Iowa. He was a Cass Township trustee, mayor, councilman, and bank director. Peter and John J. also owned and operated the town Light and Water Plant.

There are five generations of the Herkenraths buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth. Angela Herkenrath Thomas is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Neola, Iowa.

Of the original homestead farm bought by Peter Herkenrath, eighty acres is still owned by an in-law of theirs, Ralph Krueger, husband of Marie Bendon.

The Herkenrath family to date includes: eleven children, fifteen grandchildren, forty-four great grandchildren and eighty-one great-great grandchildren.

William F. Hughes Family

William F. Hughes and Mary Ann Long, daughter of Peter and Sarah (Hopkins) Long, were married at North Liberty, Iowa, March 12, 1873. William was born on January 25, 1846 and Mary Ann on February 16, 1852. They were the parents of: James (1874-1945); Bert (1876-1967); Nellie Hughes Coleman (1880-1912); Charles (1885-1945); Fred (1884-1958); Rena Hughes Bittle, 1890.

William F. Hughes Family

William Hughes was a farmer and came to a farm northwest of Persia, Iowa. In 1894, they moved to a farm northwest of Portsmouth. In 1912 they moved to Shelby, Iowa. In 1933, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. After his wife's death in 1933, Mr. Hughes lived with his daughter, Rena, for awhile and then returned to the farm where he lived with his son James until his death in 1937. The farm is still in the family's name.

All deceased members of the Hughes family are buried in Cass Township Cemetery, Portsmouth, Iowa, except Fred, who is buried at Minden, Iowa.

Peter Jurschak II Family

Peter Jurschak II was born in Austria in 1874. He was one of six children of Peter Jurschak I and Mary (Jorschen) Jurschak. He was educated in his native land. At the age of seventeen, he came to America and settled in Shelby County. He worked as a farm hand for fifteen years. He knew no English when he arrived. He first bought 120 acres of land in Cass Township, eventually expanding to 480 acres.

Peter Jurschak was married on January 9, 1906 to Margaret Fuhs. She was the daughter of early settlers of Cass

Peter and Margaret Jurschak

Township, John and Eva (Reinig) Fuhs. She was born in 1884 in Keokuk, Iowa. Peter and Margaret were the parents of seven children: Frances, married Charles Bushon; Marie, married A. B. Klock; Peter III; Margaret; Gertrude; John; Joseph.

Mrs. Jurschak passed away in 1955 and Mr. Jurschak in 1966. Four of their children are deceased; Marie, Peter III, John and Joseph. All deceased members of this family are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery except Marie. She is buried in Foreston, Minn.

In an excerpt from the 1915 edition of Past and Present of Shelby County, Iowa, we read: "America has been called the land of opportunity and it is gratifying to note the success which has attended so many of the men who have settled here from foreign lands. These men have invariably become substantial citizens. Such a man is Mr. Jurschak and the county is proud to call him one of its best and most patriotic citizens....Mr. Jurschak is a man who has won the respect of his neighbors and fellow citizens by virtue of an exemplary life. He has gained success solely through his own unaided efforts. He is a quiet and unassuming man and well merits a good place among the representative citizens of his township."

Nicholas Jacobs Family

Nicholas Jacobs was born in Germany in September of 1851. He came to America when he was seventeen years old, coming to Keokuk County, Iowa. He was married to Margaret Hammes, also a native of Germany, who was born in 1859. After spending five years in Keokuk County, he came to Shelby County and bought a farm in Cass Township.

Nicholas Jacobs Family

Nicholas and Margaret Jacobs were the parents of these children: Michael (1878-1879); Mathias (1880-1902); Frank (1881-1948); Anna (1883-1962); Margaret (1885-1956); Susanne (1887-1965); Nicholas (1889-1952); Theodore (1891-1891); Peter (1892-1899); Catherine (1894-1980); Barbara (1897-1897); Wendell (1898-1963). Margaret, their daughter became a nun with the name of Sister Gordiana OSF.

Nicholas Jacobs died on December 7, 1918, and Margaret Jacobs died October 24, 1924.

Fred Kleffman Family

Fred Kleffman and Bernadina Henrichs were married in their native Germany. Fred Kleffman was born March 9, 1844, and his wife, Bernadina, was born on December 8, 1853. Their two oldest children, Fred, (1877-1933) and Julia, (1879-1920) were born in Germany. Julia married Peter Stein. Their three other children, Jacob (1887-1961), John (1889-1969) and William (1893-1965) were born in America. Fred served in the Spanish-American war and Jacob served in World War I.

William, their youngest son, was ordained a priest on December 21, 1920, and said his First Mass in Portsmouth on Christmas Day in 1920.

Fred Kleffman was engaged in farming during his lifetime. He passed away in 1928. His wife died in 1930.

Peter Korth Family

Peter Korth, son of Jacob and Mary Anna (Soentgen) Korth, was born near Cologne, Germany, April 13, 1847.

Peter and Anna Korth

He married Anna Rosalia Leinen, November 3, 1870, in Keokuk County, Iowa. She was also born in Germany and she was the daughter of Mathias and Anna (Buch) Leinen. After farming the land he had bought in Shelby County, Cass Township, in 1875, he built the first house in Portsmouth and went into business there.

Both Peter and Anna were members of the Roman Catholic Church and they donated five acres of land east of Portsmouth for the first Catholic Church site.

Peter and Anna were the parents of twelve children: Mary, married Peter Frederick; John Joseph; Anna, married Patrick Coughlin; John Leo; Gertrude, married Michael Coughlin; Frank; Peter; Leo Henry; Jacob; Theodore; Rosalia, married Laurence Downey; Bertha, married Robert Reid.

Mr. Korth served many years as a Justice of the Peace, township clerk, town councilman, mayor and member of the school board.

Peter passed away in 1911. Anna died in 1933. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portsmouth, Iowa, along with several of their children.

William Kruger Family

William Kruger (1846-1909) and Rose Kruger (1855-1947) moved to the Portsmouth area from Woodbine, Iowa. In 1904, they moved into the town of Portsmouth. They were the parents of five children; Albert, Mary, Ralph, Rosie and Henry.

Their son, Ralph, still makes his home in Portsmouth.

J. H. (Herb) Lawrence and O. R. (Otto) Lawrence

Samuel Patent Lawrence and wife Molly Lawrence came with their children and belongings in a covered wagon from Decatur, Illinois, in 1881. They had moved to Illinois from Georgia after the Civil War. Herbert was just a baby of about two months. Herbert and Otto's father, S. P. Lawrence, had a brother, James, who had blazed the

S.P. Lawrence Family

trail to Shelby County, Iowa, in the year of 1879, from Saugamon County, Illinois.

After their parents moved from the farm, Herb and Otto continued to operate the farm and drove daily to the farm from Harlan, Iowa.

In later years, Otto married Etta Wirth and Herbert married Neva Perdue. Herbert and his wife moved to the farm and ran the operation of it until they retired and moved into Harlan.

Otto Lawrence passed away May 27, 1956. Etta passed away March 31, 1957, and Herbert died on November 26, 1971. At this writing, the sole survivor of this side of the Lawrence family is Mrs. Herbert (Neva) Lawrence. She maintained a very keen mind and has been much interested in the operation of the farm. The farm has been for many years farmed by Jack Slaven, and the farm, this year, will be designated as a Century Farm.

This family has been progressive thru the years. They have been very concerned about the farming community which has been their home and their heritage, and it has been through the efforts of their hands and their minds that they have prospered. The family has been a religious minded and political minded family and will for generations be remembered because of the way they lived and worked.

Neva Lawrence is living in the Bedford Manor, Bedford, Iowa. Her plans are that she will some day move across the street into a duplex that she built a few years ago, and this writer believes that she will make it.

Constant Leinen Family

Constant Leinen (1847-1916), came to America with his parents, Mathias S. and Anna Maria (Buch) Leinen, in 1856. They settled in Keokuk County, Iowa. He was married to Gertrude Korth, (1853-1917). She was the daughter of Jacob and Anna (Soentgen) Korth. She was born in Wisconsin but was raised in Keokuk County. They farmed in Cass Township, southeast of Portsmouth.

Constant and Gertrude Leinen

Constant and Gertrude were the parents of six children: Matthew; Constant A., married Kate Baxter; Jacob, married Elizabeth Dohm; Josephine; Mary, married Robert Grund; Gertrude.

Mathias S. Leinen Family

Mathias S. Leinen and Anna Maria Buch were married on July 2, 1844. Mathias was the son of Nicholas and Maria Katharina (Christ) Leinen. He was born October 1, 1816, in Tunsdorf, Germany. Anna Maria was the daughter of Peter and Barbara (Gruen) Buch. She was born December 12, 1822.

They brought their family to America in 1856 and settled at Clear Creek, Keokuk County, Iowa. They came to Shelby County, Cass Township, in 1875. They bought eighty acres of land in January of 1875 from I. W. Andrews and wife for $5 per acre. This is where Richard Sondag now lives. When the Leinens came to this country, they were tailors by trade.

Mathias Leinen, Sr., Family

Mathias S. and Anna Leinen had eleven children: Nicholas (1845-1915); Constant (1847-1916), married Gertrude Korth; Mathias (1849-1929), married Anna Hammes; Anna (1852-1852); Anna Rosalia (1853-1933), married Peter Korth; Magdalena (1856-1856); Katharina (1857-1918), married Nicholas Wehr; John (1859-1886), married Susan Ludwig; Peter M. (1861-1939), married twice, first to Emma Hammes, after her death, he married Anna Ohlinger; Maria (1863-1889), married Peter Joseph Korth; Barbara (1865-1942), married John Hammes.

Mathias S. died September 13, 1898, and Anna died January 24, 1912. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. This Mathias S. Leinen family is in the 6th generation living continuously in the Portsmouth community. There are six generations buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Mathias Leinen Family

Mathias Leinen, son of Mathias S. and Anna Maria (Buch) Leinen, was born November 3, 1849, in Tunsdorf, Germany. In 1856, he came to America with his parents and settled at Clear Creek, Keokuk County, Iowa. On November 25, 1874, he married Anna Hammes. She was the daughter of Michael and Margaret (Hammen) Hammes. She was born August 4, 1854 in Feian, Germany. She came to America at the age of eighteen with her father after her mother's death.

Mathias and Anna came to Cass Township, Shelby County, Iowa, in 1875, where he settled on eighty acres two miles east of Portsmouth that he had purchased from George Miller in June of 1875. The rest of the two hundred acre farm was purchased from the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company over the years for seven to fifteen dollars per acre. This farm has been in the Leinen family since 1875. Anthony and Mildred (Leinen) Reinig live there at present.

Mathias Leinen Family

In the early years, the produce and grain were taken to Shelby, Iowa, to be sold and this was where they did their shopping. Later on the wheat was taken to Harlan, Iowa to be milled into flour for their use. Until the church was built east of Portsmouth, they attended church at Westphalia, Iowa.

Mathias and Anna Leinen had twelve children: Mary (1874), married Joseph Gau; Anna (1877), married Arnold Gau; Peter (1878-1882); Michael (1880), married Anna Sondag; Margaret (1882), married Peter J. Ohlinger; Peter F. (1884), married Mary Theilen; Susanna (1887), married Mathias Olig; Barbara (1889), died in infancy; Mathias Leo (1891-1939); John (1892), never married; Magdalen (1895), married Michael Daeges; Albert (1899), married Helen Hainley.

Anna Leinen died on January 24, 1912. Mathias Leinen farmed until he retired to Portsmouth in 1920 to live with his daughter, Mary, until his death, February 21, 1929. Mathias and Anna are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. The living members of this family are John, Magdalen and Albert.

Peter M. Leinen Family

Peter M. Leinen, son of Mathias S. and Anna Maria (Buch) Leinen, was born May 7, 1861. His first wife, Emma Hammes, was born October 10, 1867. They were the parents of these children: Constant H. (1885-1944); Mary (1887), she is now Sister Revokota OSF; Lena (1889-1965), married Tom Schumacher; Peter Q. (1891-1936); Nick (1893-1961); Michael D. (1895-1981); Katie (1897-1897). Peter's wife, Emma, died October 28, 1897.

Peter M. Leinen married Anna Ohlinger. She was the daughter of Mathias and Anna Ohlinger and she was born in 1876. To this union were born these children: Rose (1899), married Louis Raymond; Herman (1900-1966); Joseph P. and Ann, (twins) (1902), Ann married Leo Rattenberg; Laura (1903-1980), married Albert Reid; Martha

Peter M. Leinen Family

(1904-1975), married Joe F. Reinig; Zeno (1907); Andrew (1908); Francis (1909); Eva (1910), married Lawrence Gubbels; Melania (1911-1979), married Bernard Goetzinger; Clara (1913), married Ernie Peterson; Margaret (1914), married Al Mester; Modesta (1916), married Claude Green.

Peter Leinen had purchased eighty acres from Joe Korth in 1883 for $26 per acre and forty acres from Matt Bauer in 1883 for nine dollars an acre. In 1892, he purchased eighty acres from Charlie Scroggins for $22.50 per acre. He raised, rented out and sold stallions for many years. Peter died on August 12, 1939. Anna passed away June 13, 1942.

The Leinen land is now owned by Zeno Leinen and farmed by Galen and Zita (Leinen) Smith. It has been in the family since 1883.

Richard Leytham Families

Richard Leytham, son of Thomas and Eleanor Leytham, a native of Lancashire, England, was born March 3, 1823. He married Elizabeth Taylor at St. James Church, Liverpool, England, November 12, 1848. Members of the Church of England came to America in 1864.

Richard Leytham Family

Mr. Leytham, his wife, and two oldest children, were following the Mormon Trail to Salt Lake City to join the other Latter Day Saints. While on the trail in Nebraska, they met some people returning from Utah disillusioned because of Brigham Young's belief in polygamy. The Leythams returned to Florence, Nebraska and thence to Cass Township. They bought sixty acres of land for five dollars an acre in 1865. They built a log cabin on the farm. The farm eventually consisted of 220 acres. They were the parents of fifteen children, nine of whom reached maturity.

Eleanor Leytham, their daughter, married Josiah Williams. Josiah ran a dray wagon in Portsmouth. They had five children. Their daughter, Irene, was one of the first

telephone operators in Portsmouth, running the switchboard during the day and her brother, Roy, ran it at night.

Irene Williams married Arthur Tarkington and they lived on a farm near Portsmouth. They had nine children, three of whom lived with their families in Portsmouth at one time or other. Their son, Archie, owned Tark's Tavern from 1944 to 1951. A daughter, Shirley, married Paul Koeppen and they lived in Portsmouth from 1946 to 1953. Shirley taught in the rural schools and Paul drove a truck. Another son, Vern, married Roberta McKeighan, daughter of George and Elsie McKeighan, who were long time residents of Portsmouth. Vern's family lived in Portsmouth from 1947 to 1962. Vern's son, Gail and his family, now live in Portsmouth in the house that George McKeighans had owned.

Elizabeth Leytham died in 1909, and Richard Leytham died in 1911. They are buried in the Cass Township Cemetery.

Descendants of Richard Leytham still gather for a family reunion in the Portsmouth park on the first Sunday of August each year.

Charles A. Monahan Family

Charles A. Monahan was born in Grundy County, Morris, Illinois, May 17, 1863. He was the son of Patrick and Elizabeth (Hanley) Monahan. He was married to Honora Foley. She was the daughter of John and Catherine (Whalen) Foley of Livingston County, Newton, Illinois. Honora was born June 14, 1862. Eight children were born to this union: Florence Monahan Bates (1887); Claudine Monahan Birmingham (1889); Marie Monahan Sondag (1891); Patrick R. (1893-1967); Julia Monahan Huffy (1895); Charles (1900-1918); John (1903-1946); William F. (1907-1978).

Charles' Monahan was in the grain elevator business with his brother, John R. Monahan. He also was in the implement and coal business. He served as mayor of Portsmouth for a number of years. Mr. Monahan died in 1923. His wife passed away in 1926. They were members of St. Mary's Parish and they are buried in the church cemetery.

John R. Monahan Family

John R. Monahan, son of Patrick and Elizabeth (Hanley) Monahan, was born in 1857 in Grundy County, Morris, Illinois. On January 2, 1883, in Odell, Illinois, he was married to Ellen Foley. She was the daughter of John and Catherine (Whalen) Foley of Livingston County, Newtown, Illinois. She was born in 1860. John and Ellen Monahan were the parents of these children: Angela (1884-1972); Edmund (1885-1951); Mary Monahan Berdine (1887-1934); James (1889-1958); Roy (1891-1967); these children were born in Chatsworth, Illinois. The following children were born at Portsmouth, Iowa: Leo A. (1893); Blanche Monahan Skalla (1896-1967); Eva Monahan Weygint (1898); Miles (1900-1973); Helen Monahan Rosenthal (1902); Pauline Monahan Wegener (1904).

John R. Monahan Family

The John R. Monahan family came from Chatsworth, Illinois in 1892. John and his brother, Charles A. Monahan, bought the grain elevator business. He was also in the Real Estate business with Al Sims in Portsmouth for several years. In 1897, the Monahans moved to a farm about one and one-half miles northeast of Portsmouth. This was the family home for fifty years, until the death of Ellen Monahan in 1947. John R. Monahan passed away in 1914.

All deceased members of the family are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

John J. MCLaughlin Family

John J. McLaughlin was a farmer in the Portsmouth area for many years. He was married to Margaret Reidy in St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, Iowa, April 18, 1883. She was born August 12, 1860, and she was a native of Memphis, Tennessee. John and Margaret were the parents of ten children: Sister Mary Leo (1884); Anne (1886); John J. (1888); Robert (1891); Cecelia McLaughlin Gessert (1893); Julia McLaughlin Sellen (1896); Leo (1898); Joseph (1901); Michael J. (1904); Evelyn (died as a small child).

Cecelia Gessert is the only surviving member of this family.

Michael Neubauer Family

Michael Neubauer came to America at age twenty four to Muscatine, Iowa. He was born in Germany, January 3, 1844. On February 7, 1876, he married Augusta Wiese. She was the daughter of John and Rosa (Streich) Wiese and she was born July 7, 1856.

They moved to a farm one and one-half miles northeast of Portsmouth in 1880. They were the parents of these children: Paul J. (1877-1957); Leo (1878-1963); John (1880) died in infancy; Joseph (1883-1970); August (1887-1954); Rosa (1891) died in infancy; Michael (1885-1891).

Mrs. Neubauer passed away in 1891. Michael continued to live on the farm until his death in 1915. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Mathias Ohlinger Family

Mathias Ohlinger, son of Peter W. and Angeline Ohlinger, was born at Bushdorf, Germany, July 12, 1848. In 1854, he came with his parents to America and settled in Keokuk County, Iowa. Anna Herkenrath, daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Korth) Herkenrath, was born at Vochem, Germany, September 27, 1857. She came to America with her parents in 1869, settling in Washington County, Iowa. Mathias Ohlinger and Anna Herkenrath were married in 1873 at Baden, Iowa, Keokuk County. They came to Shelby County in 1882 and settled on a farm one and one-half miles west of Portsmouth.

Mathias Ohlinger Family

In 1901, Mathias Ohlingers moved into the town of Portsmouth. Mathias was a carpenter by trade, and was also a skilled basket weaver. Some of these baskets (eighty years old) made from willow saplings are still being used today.

Mathias and Anna were the parents of twelve children: Angela (1874-1878); Anna (1876-1942), married P.M. Leinen; Joseph (1879-1961), married Etta Carey; Gertrude (1881-1882); Peter J. (1883-1974), married Margaret Leinen; Nicholas (1886-1968), married Elizabeth Kathman (buried in Templeton, Ia.); Matt (1888-1967), married Hazel Merriman, (buried in Omaha, Nebr.); Michael (1890-1956), married Clara Schomer, (buried at Panama, Ia); Margaret (1893-1917), married John Stinn; John (1895-1918), killed in action, World War I, buried in France; Albert N. (1897-1898); Albert C. (1901-1966), married Clara Sporer, buried at Hot Springs , Arkansas.

Anna Ohlinger passed away in 1927. Mathias died in 1928. They were lifelong members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and are buried in the church cemetery. All other family members, unless otherwise stated, are also buried in that cemetery.

John Pitsch Family

John Pitsch was born in Germany, March 1, 1861. He was the son of John and Catherine (Bowman) Pitsch. He was married at Westphalia, Iowa, in 1891, to Mary Reinig. She was also a native of Germany and she was the daughter of John and Catherine (Stein) Reinig. She was born February 12, 1864. The Pitschs moved to a farm east of Portsmouth in 1892.

John and Mary Pitsch were the parents of five children: Susie Pitsch Gondringer (1892-1929); John (1893); Mary (1895), married John Pauley; Rose (1899), married Ted Pauley; Agnes (1903-1938).

John Pitsch was a lifelong farmer. He died in 1932. His wife passed away in 1941. The farm the Pitsch family lived on is now farmed by their grandson, Raymond Pitsch, and has been in the family since 1892.

Wm. Plambeck Family

Wm. Plambeck was born in Germany, September 22, 1862. He came to America and on September 15, 1885, at Davenport, Iowa, he was married to Clementine Emkie. She was a native of Davenport, Iowa, and she was born January 15, 1865. They were the parents of these children:

Wm. Plambeck Family

Lena Plambeck Huebner (1887); Harry (1889); Anna Plambeck Hammond (1890); Mary Plambeck Heyde (1892); John (1894); Margaret Plambeck Clausen; Tena Plambeck Williams (1895); Wm., Jr. (1897); Andrew (1902); Minnie Plambeck Nelson (1903); Edward (1904); twins, Richard and Robert (1906); Alma Plambeck Patten (1908).

The Plambecks farmed southwest of Portsmouth for many years. They are buried in Valley View Cemetery, Persia, Iowa.

Richard D. Powers Family

Richard and Nora Powers came from Ireland about 1850. They were married at St. Anthony's Church in Davenport, Iowa, in 1863.

F. Jack, Mollie B., Richard and Nora Powers

In 1876, they purchased 160 acres, which was later known as "Sunnyslope Farm," southeast of Portsmouth, from the Rock Island Railroad for $12 per acre. They moved their family of six children to this farm that summer, six years before Portsmouth was settled. Mass was held in their home before the establishment of St. Mary's Parish. The closest towns at that time were Shelby and Neola.

Their eldest son, Maurice, married Mary E. "Mollie" Wear and they farmed northwest of Portsmouth. Later they retired in Portsmouth where Maurice was mayor for a number of years.

Their son, Richard, married Mary McAndrews and also farmed northwest of town. They retired in Woodbine.

Son, Jack, farmed the home farm until his death in 1938.

Their eldest daughter, Anastasia, "Tess," married Theodore Hayes, and farmed west of Persia, later retiring in Neola.

Mary E., known as "Mollie," lived on the home place until after her brother, Jack's death. She died in Missouri Valley in 1959.

Daughter, Nora, married Frank Wear. They farmed south of Portsmouth until they retired in 1945, when they moved to Logan.

All of Richard D. and Nora A. Powers' family are buried in Portsmouth, except "Tess." She is buried in Neola, Iowa.

This farm has been in the Powers family for 105 years. Presently, it is owned and farmed by their grandson, Walter E. Wear, and great grandson, George E. Wear.

The John Reinig Families

Almost all of the members of this family have lived over the years in Portsmouth, near Portsmouth, or in the surrounding area, at one time or other.

The ancestors of these families, John and Catherine (Stein) Reinig, were born in Trier, Germany, and came to America around 1840. Their children were John, Jacob, Mathias, Eva, Margaret, Mary and Emma.

John Reinig and Agnes (Neubauer) Reinig were the parents of these children: August, John, Leo, Martin, Martha, Anna, Mary, Leona and Katherine. The John Reinigs lived by Panama, Iowa, but in later years, some of their children moved to Portsmouth.

Jacob and Barbara (Ludwig) Reinig were the parents of Susan, Mathias, Henry, John, Jacob, Rose, Clarence, Peter, Cecelia, William and Zeno. They lived at Portsmouth and a more complete family biography will be found elsewhere in this book.

Mathias and Anna (Neubauer) Reinig were the parents of four children: Joseph, Cleopha, Clara and Mathias. They lived at Portsmouth.

Eva Reinig married Mathias Fuhs and they were the parents of: John, Jacob, Mathias, Margaret, Jennie, Anna and Mary. The Fuhs lived at Portsmouth.

Margaret Reinig married Henry Greiner and their children were: Fred, Henry, Mathias, Angela, Anna and Mary. They were Portsmouth area residents.

Mary Reinig married John Pitsch, also of Portsmouth, and their children were John, Susan, Mary, Rose and Agnes.

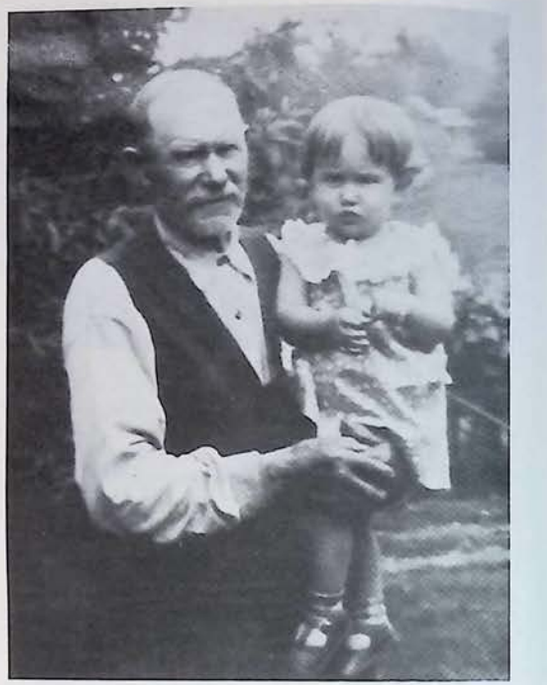
Emma Reinig married Nick Weber of Harper, Iowa.

Franz Schmidt Family

Franz Schmidt and his wife, Anna (Gluch) Schmidt, were natives of Ansfeld, Germany. They were married at Ansfeld, Germany and came to America in 1892. Franz worked on the railroad and in later years did mason work. Franz was born March 4, 1859. Anna was born in 1862.

They were the parents of seven children: Anthony (1888-1959); Agnes (1889-1978), married Fred Mikels; Paul (1892-1945); Hedwig (1893-1945), she will be remembered as Father Kleffman's housekeeper at Neola, Iowa, for many years; Michael (1896-1969); Frank (1898-1980); Anna (1902-1904).

Anna Schmidt died in 1908 and Franz passed away in 1938. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.



Franz Schmidt and grandaughter, Nola Schmidt

Jacob Schumacher Family

Jacob Schumacher, born September 4, 1850, and Susanna (Meinz) Schumacher, born April 21, 1856, were the parents of nine children: Anna, their daughter, married Peter Hein, and they had one child, Joe. He lived in Portsmouth until his death in 1978; Elizabeth, married Frank Kuncel; Mary, married William Nash; Catherine, never married; Margaret, (1884-1956), married Robert McLaughlin; Tom, married Lena Leinen; Irene (1889-1973), married Patrick R. Monahan; Mollie, married Albert Marsh; Lucy, died at an early age.

Jacob Schumacher was a farmer. He died in 1923. His wife passed away in 1934. They are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Jacob Schumacher Family

Do you remember....

When the women wore hats in church.

John Skalla Family

John Skalla was born March 10, 1849, in Leibach Austria-Hungary. He served three years in Emperor Franz Joseph's Army. John and his brothers, Joseph and Jacob Skalla, arrived in New York in 1873. Jacob got lost on their arrival, and the brothers were never able to locate him in their lifetime. John and his brother, Joseph, came to Carroll, Iowa. On February 26, 1876, at Grand Mound, Iowa, he was married to Kathryn Pinter. Kathryn was born in Germany, April 14, 1855. She was two years old when she came with her parents to America and they settled at Grand Mound, Iowa.

John and Kathryn Skalla

John and Kathryn Skalla were the parents of eleven children, two dying in infancy: Mary "Mayme" (1876-1949), married Wm. Klocke; Kathryn (1878-1975), married Albert Yegge; John (1880-1957), married Anna Berkes; Jacob (1882-1957), married Elizabeth Vicarius; Anna Marie (1885-1928), married Anthony "Pal" Herkenrath; Frances (1887-1980), married Edmund Babue; Elizabeth (1891), married Joseph Schumacher; Theresa (1892-1970), married Harry Johnston; Joseph (1895), married Blanche Monahan.

John Skalla farmed at Carroll, Wesley, Breda and Portsmouth, Iowa. He once owned and operated a saloon at Bentley, Iowa. He retired and moved to Portsmouth, Iowa, in 1920. He passed away in 1933. His wife died in 1939. They are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

John F. Slaven Family

John F. Slaven's parents, Henry Slaven and Margaret (Lawrence) Slaven, came to the Portsmouth area in 1887 by covered wagon from Illinois. At one time, they lived on a farm east of Portsmouth now owned by Neil Petsche. John Slaven was born January 19,1871.

John accompanied his parents to Tennessee to buy horses for farming. He met Sarah Burkett while there and they were married November 8, 1888, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the way back to Portsmouth. Sarah was born April 21, 1871. John and Sarah Slaven were the parents of eight children: Anne Lee Slaven Bean (1889); Mollie Slaven Williams (1891); Jessie Slaven Smith (1893); Henry Ellet Slaven (1895); Margaret Slaven Maxwell (1897); Lottie Slaven Evans (1899); John R. Slaven (1902); Vernon. Jessie, Henry and Vernon are now deceased.

John Slaven Family

John F. Slaven farmed north of Portsmouth until he moved to Harlan in 1929. He had a small truck farm in Harlan, and also travelled the country area as a Peets feed salesman. He also sold DeKalb seed corn.

Sarah Slaven passed away in 1953. John died in 1968. They are interred in the Cass Township Cemetery.

Theodore Sondag Family

Theodore Sondag was born in Loraine, France, June 24, 1850. His parents were Matthias and Margaret Sondag. He attended schools in France and served in the Franco-Prussian War, near Paris. He sailed for New York in 1872, and from there proceeded to Keokuk County, Iowa. He came to Shelby County in 1878 where he bought eighty acres of land, later expanding to 240 acres.

Theodore and Mary Sondag

On March 4, 1878, Theodore was married to Mary Korth. She was the daughter of Jacob and Mary Anna (Soentgen) Korth. She was born in 1859 in Wisconsin but raised in Keokuk County, Iowa. They were the parents of nine children: Mary (1879-1954), married Joe Daeges; Matthias (1880-1966), married Anna Jacobs; John (1882-1957), married Mary Von Tersch; Joseph (1886-1973), married Mary Hammes; Anna (1888-1965), married Michael E. Leinen; Theodore (1890-1966), married Helena Peterson; Michael (1892-1969), married Marie Monahan; Susan (1894-1944), married Ed Rosenthal; Amelia (1896-1971).

After the death of her mother in 1899, Mary, the eldest daughter, helped her father in the rearing of the younger children. After retiring from farming, Mr. Sondag made his home in Portsmouth with his daughters until his death in 1925.

All members of this family are now deceased and they are all interred in St. Mary's Cemetery, except John is buried in Dunlap, Iowa, and Michael is buried in Shenandoah, Iowa.

Carl Springman Family

Carl Springman was a native of Germany, coming to this country in 1874, and settling in Pennsylvania. He was born in 1847. He was the son of Frank and Bertha (Hesse) Springman. He came to Shelby County in 1881 where he bought land. In 1893, he married Eva Stein. Eva was born in Germany in 1857. She was the daughter of Peter and Anna Marie (Kohn) Stein. Carl and Eva were the parents of two sons, Peter (1895-1967), and Nick (1896-1973). Peter served in the Army in World War I.

Carl and Eva Springman

Carl farmed west of Portsmouth for many years. He passed away in 1941. Eva died in 1940. They were members of St. Mary's Parish and are interred in the church cemetery.

Nicholas Stein Family

Nicholas Stein, son of Peter and Anna Marie (Kohn) Stein, was born October 20, 1858, in Germany. He received his education in his native country and worked with his father on the farm until they came to America in 1882. After his marriage on February 20, 1889, at Portsmouth, Iowa, to Anna Leuck, daughter of Frank and Margaret (Kautenberger) Leuck, he bought some land and started farming for himself.

Nicholas and Anna Stein were the parents of ten children: Margaret, married John Rath; Peter; Susan, married Tony Rath; Michael; Rose, married Bill Daeges; John; William; Joseph; Bernadine, married Ed Martin; Mary, died in infancy.

Mr. Stein and his wife retired from farming in 1924 and moved to Harlan, Iowa. He passed away in 1937. Anna died in 1952. The living members of this family are, Susan, Rose, John and William. John Stein and his wife, Helen, reside on the Stein home place.

Peter Stein Family

Peter Stein, son of Peter and Anna Marie (Kohn) Stein, was born in Germany, June 30, 1865. He came to America from Welligen Kreises Merzig when he was twenty five years old. His father, his brothers, Nicholas and John, and his sister, Eva, also came to America, to Harrison County. Peter later moved to the farm east of Portsmouth, Iowa, where he lived until his death in 1946.

Peter and Julia Stein

On April 16, 1907, Peter Stein was married to Julia Kleffman. She was the daughter of Fred and Bernadine (Heinz) Kleffman. They were the parents of six children: Marie, married George Kaufmann; Fred; Agnes; John; Helen; Carl. John, Helen and Carl are now deceased.

Julia Stein passed away in 1920.

Their son, Fred, farmed and resided on the Stein home place until moving to Harlan, Iowa, several years ago.

William Thomas Family

William Thomas was born in Henry, Illinois. Elizabeth Roth was born in Canada of French Canadian parents. Elizabeth moved to Henry, Illinois, where she met and married William Thomas. They later relocated in Shelby County, Iowa, where they owned the farm on which they lived, three miles east and one-half north of Portsmouth, Iowa. They were the parents of six children: William, married Angelina Herkenrath; Henry, married Magdalyne Leuchen; Frank, married Anne Hyde; Mary Mathilda, married Jacob Daeges; Leo, never married; Joseph, married Dora Hyde.

William Thomas Family

The Thomas family sold their farm in Cass Township and moved to a farm in Stanberry, Missouri, in 1902. William Thomas, Sr. raised tobacco on his farm in Missouri and used it to make cigars. He was also known for his ability as a story-teller. His wife was a talented cook and baker and made wedding cakes and cooked for weddings in the area. She was also a midwife and delivered the babies in the area.

William and Elizabeth Thomas are buried in Stanberry, Missouri. The only surviving member of the Thomas family is Mary Mathilda Daeges, age 98, who is the oldest resident of Portsmouth, Iowa.

Nickolaus Wehr Family

Nickolaus Wehr was born in Germany in 1852. He came to America to Keokuk County, Iowa, in 1863. His parents were John Edward and Anna (Buch) Wehr. He married Catherine Leinen. She was a native of Harper, Iowa. She was born in 1857. Some years after their marriage, they moved to Portsmouth, Iowa, where Nickolaus farmed for a number of years and then ran a butcher shop.

Nickolaus and Catherine were the parents of eleven children: Anna Wehr Coyle; John Edward (1878-1958); Katherine Wehr Mohr (1881-1980); Nickolaus (1882-1897); Rose Wehr Fritz; Peter (1887-1947); Paul; Pearl Wehr Lockman; Clara Wehr Weir (1892-1979); Edward; Walter (1899-1978).

Nickolaus died in 1913. Catherine passed away in 1918. They are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Nickolaus and Catherine Wehr

Julius Wiese Family

Julius Wiese came from his native Germany to America as a child with his parents, John and Rose (Streich) Wiese. They settled at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and when Julius was in his teens, he moved to Portsmouth, Iowa, to farm. This was in 1877. Julius was born in 1859.

He married Julia Nowatzke in 1884. To this union were born these children: Paul (1885-1953); Peter (1886-1912); Frank (1888-1973); Rose (1889-1890); Joseph (1890-1948);

Julius and Julia Wiese

Michael (1892-1976); Julius J. (1895); Gertrude Wiese Pauley (1898); Jacob (1900-1973); Clara Wiese Pauley (1904); John (1906-1933).

Julius farmed two miles northeast of Portsmouth until he retired and moved to Portsmouth in 1927. His son, Peter, operated a jewelry store in Portsmouth for some time. Julius died in 1929 and Julia passed away in 1934.

Gilbert Whaley Family

Gilbert Whaley owned and operated a billiard hall and bowling alley in Portsmouth. Innovation in the Whaley business was the introduction of peanut roasting and popcorn machines. Gilbert, son of Valentine and Louisa (Thayer) Whaley, was born July 11, 1863. His father, Valentine (1828-1914), was born in Cataoquist Co. N.Y. His mother, Louisa (1833-1893), was from Freedom, New York.

Orilla E. Hillyer was born July 21, 1868. She was the daughter of Amos and Anna (Vance) Hillyer. Her father, Amos (1838-1887), was born in Wellington District, Estellor, Canada. Her mother, Anna (1841-1898), was from Pennsylvania.

Gilbert and Orilla (Hillyer) Whaley were the parents of five children: Dolly (1888-1974), married John J. Herkenrath; Jennie (1889); Blanche (1891); Lottie (1893-1894); Lonnie (1896).

Mr. Whaley passed away in 1923 and his wife died in 1939. They are interred in the Cass Township Cemetery.

David Williams Family

David Williams came to Portsmouth from Council Bluffs, Iowa, with his parents when he was four years old. They then moved to Willys, Kansas when David was fifteen years old. David Williams was born March 23, 1866. He was married to Mary L. Simmonds, December 27, 1886, at Hiawatha, Kansas. Mary was the daughter of Miles and Lovina (Wescoat) Simmonds. She was born November 8, 1868.

In 1893, David, his wife and family, moved back to the Portsmouth vicinity. The Williams were the parents of three children, William E. (1887), Clyde A. (1890), and Jenevia Mae (1892).

Mr. Williams passed away in 1927. His wife, Mary, died in 1959. They are interred in the Cass Township Cemetery.

Giles, Anna, Pete and Marie Bendon - 1908 Model N Ford

Martin Sorenson family new home - 1908. This is the Joe Patten family home at present.

P.F. Leinen family - 1928

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Wiese - 1912

A.C. Walker Farm - 1905 Now the Ernie Ohlinger Farm.

Reminiscences

Old timers spinning yarns. Mike Gallagher, Tom Turner, Theodore Sondag, Mike McAndrews, Peter Stinn and Peter M. Leinen.

Portsmouth Town Park

Sleigh Riding

Childhood Memories By Bertha Slaven

A new century, the twentieth! New things, new ways, but we were an unafraid group of children. Oh yes, we were afraid not to do right, but besides our faithful parents there was our pastor, wonderful Father Failenschmid, to watch over us. This he did constantly, and you could see him saying his office. Praying for us, of course: and you never forgot to speak to him; and if a boy forgot to tip his hat he was punished.

I was not afraid of lightning and loved to watch the storms.

As we grew older and started to school, the older girls would braid white clover wreaths for us to wear and we were so proud.

Then came ball games. As we ran out for recess everyone yelled catcher, pitcher, first base etc., and no one doubted them as they were the first one to say that position. The brave ones played football in the winter.

Vacation! There was a swimming hole in the old Mosquito creek and many a one was just thrown in for the first time and had to learn to swim. You could go to the farm and slide down the straw or wade in the creek filled with lots of fresh spring water. We took tin cups along to the creek for water fights. There were some mules to ride named Topsy and Betsy. And ground squirrels to shoot with rifles before they got the newly planted corn.

There was a hay ride in the fall with a stop at Jake and Lizzie Leinen's place for cider and popcorn. Jake was so good to the kids of the town.

In the winter we had an ice pond from which they cut ice to fill the ice house of Nick Wehr's and you could buy ice there. The ice pond was over the hill from the stand pipe water storage tank, and we skated there in the winter. When we grew tired of skating we would go to one of the gang's houses and have popcorn and play and sing old songs like 'Red Wing' & 'Bill Bailey' etc.

Sleigh ride: Our main track was in Schmidt's pasture and extended two blocks down the hill from the Catholic school fence to the main highway. It didn't take long until it was ice and you could go fast. Then we had another track from the stand pipe hill down two blocks east and to the corner and south to main street, then east four blocks and south to the depot. There were no cars on the streets then. We also had a lot of fun on a big sled that Mr. Anselm Elder, the blacksmith, made. It held so many and we used his horse to pull it up the hill for us.

Of course, the girls couldn't, but many of the boys skated all six miles to Persia on the Mosquito Creek. We played run sheep run and hide and seek in the summer. In the evenings, if it started to rain we would go into the house. It didn't matter whose house it was. We would play games. Hide the thimble and button, button were favorites and when you lost you had to pay a penalty such as sitting with a boy, ugh! We also had many birthday parties, and a marriage would call for a shivaree etc.

Those Fourth of July parades and celebrations with our drills, flags and songs coached by Elma Hammerand, were most enjoyable. There were also foot races, tug of wars and prizes for the winners. Many of the girls took music lessons on the piano and the boys took violin lessons, and both would play on special occasions.

I'll never forget mother calling, "come, it is time to practice your music" or "come and rock the baby." Play was immediately stopped.

Yes, these are fond memories, and above all we remember our beautiful Benedictine Sisters.

Introduction

Alice White North thought she would retire from giving speech lessons at the age of eighty. But here she is, ninety-five and a half, and still going strong—with private pupils of many ages seeking her out. Alice won't take money for the priceless teaching she gives, but those who get it know how valuable it is.

Alice White North

Born near Logan, Iowa, in 1885, Alice found out early in life that her greatest interest and talent were in the field of speech and drama. As a very young woman, she furthered her education during winters and summers, and taught school in spring and fall terms, first in her native state and then in Snohomish, Washington. After three years in the west, she returned to Iowa where she coached declamatory contests and directed plays in high schools.

In her essay in this book, Alice White North reports on the years 1896 to 1900 when she lived in Portsmouth and was part of the life there.

The Years I Remember
Alice White North

From the spring of 1896 to the summer of 1900, Portsmouth, Iowa —population at that time around three hundred— was very much a part of my world. I have been asked to try to write, now at the time of the town's one hundredth birthday, something of what I can recall of the happenings of those particular years. Many incidents come surging back along with particular people well remembered. And there are shadowy figures that almost come—but not quite. Surely many of these meant as much to me in those old days, as the ones I mention. Names trip me—I hope to be forgiven— for remember, I'm delving back about eighty-five years, more or less. Now I wonder - is anyone else left who remembers that special time along with me? Or am I indeed,
"The last leaf on the tree?"

However, I begin.

When, in the spring after I was ten years old, my mother, Roxanna White, my older sister Madge and I moved from our country home some five miles east of Logan in Harrison County, to Portsmouth in Shelby County, I wonder that I did not notice the difference more sharply. This difference must simply have been taken in stride. For what I had loved most in our old home was almost wholly lacking in the new. Trees. There were few of these in Portsmouth then—just the ones planted along the streets and a few in some of the yards. Our old country home was in rolling timber. Our new home—our town—was surrounded by steep, treeless hills. What a change! And in just ten miles.

Of course it seemed farther than that for goodness knows it took a long time to drive that distance even with the friskiest of horses hitched to a heavy lumber wagon that jolted over the rutty and rain-washed roads. No one dreamed then of the high-powered cars that now speed on hard-surfaced roads leading straight through those hills that had to be laboriously climbed in those days. And the nearer we got to Portsmouth, the higher and steeper the hills—and fewer the trees.

Some of the streets were fairly well shaded—box elder and maple mostly—and there were straggly willows along Mosquito Creek that wound east of the railroad tracks and disappeared in the only natural timber anywhere about. And there was little of that. It was called Leland's Grove—some distance to the south. Our Main Street was a bit over three blocks long if one began at the Public School at a dead end on the hill west of town, and it ran east to the two grain elevators beside the railroad tracks. At the end of the first block down the hill, town began. The business district occupied parts of the next two blocks but it didn't begin to reach the tracks. Only the square was free from weeds and grass and all over town there were open plots of ground that grew up to weeds unless some ambitious residents planted vegetable gardens there.

The home in town that mother had bought belonged to Harry Gibson and his wife who was our sister Jess. They had three children then—Bessie, Jessie and Jean. A few years before, Jess and Harry—I called him Had—moved from their farm north and west of town and Had worked at the Monahan grain elevator.

Now they had decided to go back to the farm. However they were not quite ready to do so when we arrived, so just at first, we lived in a place over in the north east part of town. The houses were more numerous there and so were the children. I was wild to get out with the herd—and herd it was! We raced up and down the street and overflowed into the park about a block distant. We played Run, Sheep, Run and Hide and Seek in everybody's yards and up everybody's trees. I was simply ecstatic. It was like having school recess all the time.

How well I remember how that old street looked. Across from our house was the Hilburn home. There must have been other children in the family but I only remember Ray. The Charles Monahans lived east of Hilburns and the John Monahans, west. I remember—maybe—all of the Monahan girls. There were Florence, Marie, Claudine and Julia—and a boy—Pager. East of their home the Walkers lived, and down a weedy path, close to the railroad, was the home of the station master. I think a new family came to take over while we lived in town. Was their name Curran? There was a George Curran in school.

Mrs. Williams lived east of us—her children were Rena and Roy. Was there another boy? West of our home—Mr. and Mrs. Summers and their son, Marty. The Pfeiffers lived on the west end of the block.

The homes on the south side of the next block west are mostly in shadow. Perhaps the Houghtons lived there. But on the north side there was the Lawrence family. I remember Dave and Olive—three other brothers I believe. One whose name escapes me was a special friend. He died young. There was the Simms family—I remember Jess. The Wehrs lived along here—John, Clara—more, surely. Mr. Wehr had the butcher shop. Then came the two Scroggin families. The Russel Scroggins had Dessa and Donald. In the Charley Scroggin family the four older girls, Birdie, Florence, Ollie and Stella were with me in both school and Sunday School. Elmer Scroggin was an older boy.

At the west end of this street, facing east, lived the John Hammes family. Mr. Hammes had the town shoe shop. After we moved from our rented home we lived just a block from their home. I used to like to listen when Mrs. Hammes called her children in from play. She had such a lovely voice—like music.

Up the hill north from the Hammes place was the beautiful old Catholic church. Near the church was the Catholic school and the home of the nuns who taught there.

The Dorhman family lived over in the north part of town too. Emma and I wrote birthday letters to each other from the time she married Oscar Gill and went to Alaska to live, to her death, long after I came to Texas.

Across from the Hammes home—east—was the old Methodist church, and farther on east lived the Hammerand

family. I believe I can name all of that family of children. There were Charlie, Willie, Johnny, Lucy and Manda. The Hammerands had the blacksmith shop.

As my mind goes back to that first summer in town I remember the news items that interested me. One was the Dreyfus case which was headlined in all the papers. How I sympathized with the condemned man! I was thoroughly convinced of his innocence long before it was proved. I imagined his existence on Devil's Island as quite comparable to that of Robinson Crusoe!

The other subject was politics. Our folks had always been Republicans and Portsmouth, as a town, was predominately Democrat. I had many an argument with the children —especially Ray Hilburn—as to the relative merits of McKinley and Bryan, Gold Standard and Sixteen to one! We would ask any newcomer, "Are you Gold or Silver?" I was outnumbered, but I yelled as loud as any Democrat on the block, or in the whole town, for that matter. And I knew just about as much about politics as I did about the Dreyfus case! I have never been so concerned over an election in all the years since. When McKinley was elected on November third—my eleventh birthday—I was able to crow. And I'm sure I did.

By the time we moved to our own home up on the hill by the Public School, I pretty well knew the town of Portsmouth. Ours was the only house on the north side of that whole block then. My nephew, Donald Gibson, tells me that the old house is still standing! While we lived there the Charlie Dorhamns built on the east end of the block. I remember Dora and Lena.

Across the street from us and down the hill, lived Kate Oathouse. And on east, on the corner, was the home of our cousin, Lulu Bean. She was a widow with an adopted son, Eddie. Our family name for Lulu was "Lute." She owned a beautiful bay mare—Florrie—a high spirited animal—and Lute rode her, side saddle and with long riding skirt billowing—as though she and the creature were one. No matter how Florrie curvetted and reared, Lute sat straight and sure. Florrie was also driven to a two wheeled cart and often I was allowed to go with Lute when she made a trip to her farm—also to see sister Jess who lived even farther away.

The second of the three blocks began east of the Lute corner. First came an open and weedy lot—then the blacksmith shop. How I loved to imagine that this was like the one in Longfellow's poem! I, too, "Looked in at the open door" to see the sparks fly and to hear the clang of the anvil. The Dalheimer saloon came next and the Dalheimer family lived next door. I have a feeling that there was a harness shop next—if so, I have no idea as to the proprietor. The Houghton drug store was about mid-block—I remember Kate Houghten's long dark braids! The Post Office was in one corner of the drug store and I believe Dr. Clark must have had his office here—at least that was where we went to call him when mother was sick.

The Strauss barber shop was along about here—with its striped pole and then came the Herkenrath and Dorhman Dry Goods and Groceries—this was the most wonderful store in town! You could find almost anything in the world there. It fascinated me. Up in front there were such items as piece goods—this meant yard goods from calico to woolens. There were pins and needles, thread and yarn, corsets, stockings and socks, gloves and mittens. The list seemed endless. And in the back, behind the pot-bellied stove, were the groceries. We could buy a fifty pound sack of flour for a dollar, and Mr. Dorhman carried it up the hill for us on his shoulder.

Then came the square and across the street on east was a hardware store. It was owned by Charlie Haas. In one corner of this store was a millinery shop belonging to Alice Kelliher, and this first summer in town Madge worked there. I well remember a white leghorn hat that she trimmed herself with pink ribbons and roses. It cost three dollars and Madge "worked it out." Mother and sister Jess considered it rather expensive.

Alice Kelliher later married Mr. Haas. I remember their first baby. They named him Carl.

On east in the block came the Scroggin bank. This was a place I entered only when I went with my mother to cash our pension check. I shall have to go back here a bit to explain that my father, Warren White, who died before I can remember him, had been a Civil War soldier. He had volunteered when he and my mother had only two children—our oldest, Harry and Hattie. I believe the third child, Edna, was born while father was away or soon after his return, for he was sent home after only a few months—discharged because he had developed what in those days was called "consumption." He was never really well again. The rest of the family, born in later years were fortunate in having good lungs—except as in my case—a tendency toward this weakness—which I speedily outgrew. Brother Harry was twenty five years old when I joined the family.

The pension had been a blessing all through the years and now was especially so. Every three months a check for $42.00 came from Uncle Sam. How we looked forward to its arrival! And how we planned what it could—and must—buy. At that it had not seemed at all meager when we lived in the country and mother had been fairly well. After we came to town it seemed that it all went for coal and doctor bills. How we missed the cheap wood we had burned in our old home!

But—back to Portsmouth.

On east of the bank was the town hotel. I have not one recollection as to the owners. I simply remember that it was there. Across from the hotel was the shoe shop and then the Bill Hall grocery store. I remember how Mr. Hall sang as he came forward to wait on customers! West of this place was a weedy space that reached the square; then came the Battey bank—opposite the Herkenrath and Dorhman store. George and Hattie were the Battey children.

There was a cafe about mid-block. The owners had a vegetable garden near where we lived and I "traded" weeding in this garden for some Fourth of July candy! How wonderful it was to go and choose which kind of candy I wanted! I remember the woman in charge was both helpful and interested. The name of the owners escapes me.

Then came the Wehr meat market, and in this shop—believe it or not—could be purchased for ten cents, a steak big enough for three people. And even then Mr. Wehr often "threw in" an extra piece of liver!

Next on the west was the hose house. Somehow this building always made me think of a Dutch windmill. I well remember the hoses stored there were put to work that summer when one of the grain elevators burned. From the back porch of the house we lived in we could see the men using the hoses in fighting the blaze with water from the town well. This well with its windmill was in the square by the Battey bank—a good two blocks from the fire. It was all terribly exciting. The Monahan elevator was saved. The other one was, I think, a total loss.

On the corner a block south from the bank was a building known as the Rink. I think there must have been roller skating there at one time. That, sorry to say, was before our day. In it now were held public meetings—political and social—dances, lodge meetings, medicine shows and home talent plays. And across the street I'm almost sure there was another saloon.

Town was wonderful. Even the board sidewalks! All was so new and excitingly different from the country home I had known. The walks were wider down in the business section and along the outside edges were hitching posts where farmers tied their teams when they came to town. They came in wagons mostly, though there were buggies too and spring wagons and often two wheeled carts with shafts for a single horse. All the buildings in town were made of wood and few of them were painted.

A delight to me were the trains that tooted their way through town day and night. Only very occasionally had I been lucky enough to see a train when we made one of our infrequent trips to Logan in the old days. Here in Portsmouth they were a constant enchantment. After we moved to our own home on the hill I seldom missed the evening Flyer from my perch on the roof of our stable. There I stationed myself to listen for the whistle and to watch for the first puff of smoke that could be seen above the trees in Leland Grove before the engine hove in sight.

It was from this post that I saw the first steam thrashing machine puffing along south of our block. It belonged to the Bendon brothers and what an innovation it was! Before that thrashing machines had been operated by horse power—eight or perhaps more teams going round and round the contraption that propelled the tumbling rod, which in turn ran the machine itself. I always felt sorry for the horses, pulling and pulling and never getting anywhere.

We went to Sunday School in the brown old church in the hollow. I learned the lessons and the Golden Texts in the David C. Cook lesson sheets, memorized the set answers to the lists of questions, joined lustily in singing the hymns in our old Finest of the Wheat song books and was on hand for all programs, "speaking pieces" Children's Day, Christmas and Easter. Church suppers in the park happened once in a while and we had Sunday School picnics. Mrs. Rankin taught the young men's class and her daughter Elma played the organ. Mrs. Strauss was my teacher. Mr. Woodhouse was Superintendent. There was a Morris Woodhouse and I think a younger brother—was his name Ray?—another shadow.

And Portsmouth celebrated the Fourth of July!

One year in the parade I was Miss Columbia, standing by a large flag erected on the floor of a four wheeled buggy from which the seat had been removed. The whole vehicle was draped in white and I wore a white dress and had a gold colored, starstudded crown over my loosely hanging hair. Six boys pulled the buggy. George Battey was one of them—the rest, long lost!

Early in our first year in town a band of gypsies in covered wagons descended upon us. Children were herded within doors as the invaders swarmed through the streets. Women with rings in their ears, wearing very dirty but bright colored dresses, and with bandanas twisted round their heads, knocked on doors, asking for food and clothing. They offered to tell fortunes and proffered trinkets for sale, eager to get a foot inside the quickly closed and locked screen doors. They were followed by droves of children who fanned out over the streets and yards, ready to pounce on any toy carelessly left unguarded. These were hurriedly retrieved by owners who also looked after rakes and hoes or any tool or implement ordinarily kept on porch or in open shed. The gypsy men stayed on the square drumming up their business of horse trading.

How my eyes popped! In the country my only acquaintance with such interesting and mysterious creatures had been in books. If these uninvited visitors camped on the outskirts of town overnight, the older citizens did not sleep too soundly. Everyone was glad when the caravan wound over the hills and out of sight. Once too in one of these eventful years a medicine man came to town and about once a year a plump old blind woman with a small collapsible organ used to appear on the street by the drug store. She must have had a helper but I don't remember one. Just suddenly there she was with folks clustered around to hear her play on the wheezy little instrument and sing the songs asked for by the bystanders. She sang in a strong, true voice. I can't vouch for the quality but she kept the tune and seemed to know all the songs in the world! When she did fail to remember the words in a few instances, her "la-la-las" and hearty laugh rang out as she asked pardon for the slight mistake. She could make her audience laugh or cry and the nickels and dimes—sometimes even quarters—overflowed the tin cup provided for that purpose. I never saw her come or go. Just suddenly she was there and then gone.

A merry-go-round came once. It was pure magic, like a glimpse of fairyland set down on a weedy lot just north of the depot. The old horse drawn contrivance on which I had once ridden in Logan and which had seemed so wonderful at the time, now faded into insignificance beside this miracle of sound and glitter. The popular tunes played on the blaring calliope and the toot that announced the beginning and end of each ride simply lifted me out of myself. I was soaring on a cloud! At first I looked with something like awe at the spirited horses that rocked with the revolutions and swayed with the music. It was intoxicating enough merely to feast my eyes. Gradually, however, I began to want most terribly just one ride. And my mother managed the impossible—a whole nickel! So ecstacy and I, from the back of a plunging charger, glanced sidewise at what seemed to be rank after rank of spectators on the sidelines. And indeed most of the town turned out for such an occasion. Such wonders didn't come along every day.

School in Portsmouth was fine so long as I was in Miss Ida Graybill's "downstairs" room. I was a fair student in all

subjects but Arithmetic. Miss Graybill was patient about this and I believe she was a very good teacher. I know she taught me how to write, using what she called muscular movement. I have always been grateful to her for this. But the fall of 1898 I was "promoted" to the "upstairs" room. I don't think much attention had been paid to grades until Mr. Frank Gallagher came, but he had made an attempt to organize things a bit. That year Miss Katie Griffin came to take Miss Graybill's place. Miss Griffin boarded with us and I hoped I could stay with her for I liked her very much. But the first morning of school, here came Mr. Gallagher who told me to get my books and follow him. I was taken to the room above and put into the class with the children who had been "promoted" the year before. I had always admired Mr. Gallagher—from a distance—but had felt a bit afraid of him. Now I learned that my vague misgivings had been justified, for he certainly had a sarcastic tongue—and how he used it on me in my old bugbear arithmetic class. I learned from him in spite of this, but I never think of him, even now, without a slight shiver. He couldn't have affected the other youngsters as he affected me. He was a good instructor and I feel sure he helped to build up our public school. Of the two schools in town I'm sure ours must have been the smaller for Portsmouth was predominantly Catholic and the nuns must have had more pupils.

Our school had a small library and here I found Lamb's Tales From Shakespeare, which I devoured. Mr. Gallagher introduced us to new books by authors we had known before and to some wholly new to us. He read for what was called "opening exercises," The Autocrat Of The Breakfast Table, by Oliver Wendell Holmes, The Story Of A Bad Boy, by Thomas Bailey Aldrich and Three Men In A Boat, by John Kendrick Bangs. He required the older children to memorize Mark Anthony's Address and Hamlet's Soliloquy. He never knew that I memorized them too. But he knew I was a numbskull in arithmetic—and how right he was!

At home we began to get new books and magazines. I remember a magazine Hearth and Home that had the Captain Eri stories by Joe Lincoln, and somewhere I found Tanglewood Tales—my first peep at mythology.

In 1898 our town sent two boys—volunteers—to the Spanish-American War. They were Albert Walker and Bruce Greenlee. I do not remember when they left, but the whole town was down at the depot to meet them when they returned, safe and sound, at the end of the war.

I was, of course, wildly patriotic, listening to the news as it was being discussed by the older folks, intensely interested in the names of the battleships engaged in the blockade of Havana—one of these was the "Iowa." We were learning geography too. I, for one, had never heard of the Philippines until then. I remember a bit of the doggerel the children were chanting:

"It was on a dewey morning in the dewey month of May,
When a gentleman named Dewey sailed down Manila Bay.
And when the Spaniards sighted him, their guns began to sing
And what did Mr. Dewey do? He didn't dewey thing!"

My favorite heroes were Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders who stormed San Juan Hill.

We were learning the war poems that came out in the newspapers and magazines, and of course, singing the wa- songs. Two of the most popular were "Just As The Sun Went Down" and "My Sweetheart Went Down With The Maine." "A Hot Time In The Old Town" was a song we were singing then—though it had nothing to do with the war.

Under Mr. Gallagher, our school in the spring of 1898 had ten grades. Elma Rankin was one who had completed the course and I believe Kearney Elder was the other—anyway I know there were two members in our first graduating class. On the Commencement program Madge read a tribute to the boys who had gone down with the Maine. It was written by Robert Cousins. It ended with a quotation from Kipling's "Recessional." I'm almost sure that on this program, Elma read "A History Of Portsmouth" that she had written herself. Would that someone had a copy of that essay now!

Old Blue was the name of the cow we owned at our home on the hill top. She was very much a part of our daily life. The "Old" we used before the names of our pets and domestic animals had nothing to do with their age. It was simply a term of endearment. Mornings I used to lead Old Blue to a pasture a short distance from town. The way led down a steep pitch—part of the street between us and the school house. On the corner by the Elder home—they were our nearest neighbors—this street met the road that led west from town. The downgrade continued for a short distance and then started up another hill past Wehr's slaughter house, then on down to the foot where lay Bickel's pasture. This was a lush, grassy place with a small stream running through it.

From everywhere on the road to the pasture came the song of larks. Robins, wrens and other birds were there too—birds I had known in my old home. But larks I heard first on those treeless hills around Portsmouth.

Evenings I trudged the trail again and Old Blue and I came back to the shelter of the stable where my mother milked and I stood by with a whisk of some sort to scare away flies and mosquitoes. There was a hydrant in our back yard where we got water for the household. An old tub was used as a drinking place for Blue. How rich was the cream that rose on Blue's milk! And we loved it on fruit and puddings. We sold this milk for five cents a quart. I delivered it to the Dalheimers and to Mrs. Salter who kept boarders and lived in rooms over the Herkenrath and Dorhman store. We depended a lot on this income—remember my ride on the merry-go-round? It meant the price of a whole quart of milk! We could pay for lots with a nickel back then. Postal cards cost a penny and a letter could be sent for two cents. Other things in proportion. No wonder I could have just one ride! And how well I understood.

The Albertus family lived over in the south part of town. Marie, the daughter, about my age I think, had beautiful curly hair! I believe Mr. Albertus drove the town dray. The Rankins lived here too—and the Woodhouse and Battey families. Also the Korths. And another Hammes family moved in while we were there—over on the south side of our block.

The Leonard sisters, Kate and Mayme, had a home up near the Catholic church, and Jim Nash, a relative of theirs, lived somewhere in town. Some years after I came to Texas Mr. Nash also came to this Rio Grande Valley to live—over by Mission. He often came to call and when the

Leonard sisters visited him they came too. This was in the late 1930's. Even then we looked back on the old days in Portsmouth—they seemed long gone to us forty years ago!

How the memories come back! One of the happiest diversions of the young folks in those days was meeting the Flyer on Sunday evenings. Young men and their best girls, children, even some of the older people strolled down to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul depot to see the train come in. And of course I went too! How I gazed bug-eyed as this monster of fire and smoke announced itself with long drawn whistle, far down the track. Then it tooted its way into town, bringing with it a glimpse of an absolutely new and entirely different world. All too soon it was on its way out of our lives—speeding to Chicago! If any townspeople got off or on, they were momentarily surrounded by a halo of glamour.

How I envied the fortunate people who looked through the shining windows at us there on the platform! They seemed rich and favored of the gods, especially those who glanced up from the tables in the dining car. The glistening damask, the silver and glass, the obsequious waiters—all presented a picture of elegance to which I could hardly dare aspire. I must confess that time "did not wither, nor custom stale" the satisfaction I felt in later years when I did at last ride, eat on a train, and even sleep on a Pullman! How sad I was to see the beautiful old trains become a thing of the past!

After the summer of 1900 Portsmouth was never home again. I was back off and on—parts of two winters I think I was in school there. After Mr. Gallagher left Miss Griffin carried on "upstairs." And one summer—much later—when I was teaching in the west, and back on vacation—I was asked to read (I hope only excerpts) from the Declaration of Independence one Fourth of July. Later still, during the First World War, I directed a play for Red Cross with children of the Catholic School. In those days I remember Dick Mester who had a store then—I think it was where an old saloon used to be. And I remember John Herkenrath—and others. But I am now writing of the years when Portsmouth belonged to me and I belonged to it!

Reminders in scraps come back. From our hill top home there rounded out the full horizon. On winter nights the sky's expanse crackled with stars. In season, the hills to the north and east were green with springing corn and wheat—or gold with harvest. Mosquito Creek, the banks of which I often explored, curved through the bottom land to the south. On zeroish mornings the cross on the Catholic church "Frost-touched, was bright as gold," and steam and smoke from the laboring engines that pulled the long lines of freight cars billowed white and black against the blue of the sky.

On summer mornings could be heard neighbor calling to neighbor. The voices of children echoed clear across town. There was the rattle of wagons, the thud of horses' feet. —All memories to be cherished—as long as life shall last.

Do you remember....

Driving a car before the roads were surfaced - driving on mud roads - putting on chains. The old wooden bridges with bannisters.

Days Gone By

The history of the first settlers is well recorded in many books but it seems that little is recorded about the first and second generation of the early settlers. In my memories I would like to record some of the incidents of their daily life, some comical and some on the serious side.

I was born sixty odd years ago on a farm located across the road from the original church built on the prairie east of Portsmouth. In my life time I have seen the greatest advance in agriculture, an advance that was greater than all advances in the thousands of years before this short period of time.

Zeno Leinen on early tractor.

In this period we have changed from horse drawn equipment to our modern tractors, equipped with cabs, heaters, air conditioners, radios, and in some cases televisions. Their horse power is almost unlimited, their drawn equipment is large, allowing a farmer to farm hundreds of acres. With horse drawn equipment a man could farm eighty acres without help, but if he increased his farm to a hundred and twenty, he needed some part time help and another team of horses.

Bill Bruck discing with 4-wheel drive tractor at the Dave Gibson Farm.

As the farms were increased in size, many farmsteads were abandoned. At the present time I can count forty-two abandoned, and twenty-one that do not have active farmers on them. When told these figures, one farmer made the remark that he knew something was wrong for he had to keep his own tomcat.

The development of hybrid seeds, commercial fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, and control of erosion has increased our yield about three times. A fifty bushel corn crop was once considered a good crop, now that yield would qualify for a disaster payment according to the present farm program.

We have advanced from kerosene lamps, outdoor plumbing, coal and wood stoves for heating and cooking, radios were still in their experimental stage, no way to keep fresh meat, milk, butter, and other items cool except by hanging them in a well or a cistern, far cry from our modern houses of today.

Through the early part of this period, a farmer was very dependent on exchange labor with his neighbor. Threshing, corn shelling, transporting grain and livestock to market, butchering, haying and other work, made a neighborhood a close knit unit.

The first non-horse power was the steam engine used for threshing and at times on a corn sheller. The sound of the steam is one I will always remember, the hissing of the steam as the cylinder traveled back and forth, the sound of the whistle when blown to tell the water hauler to hurry, they were very delightful sounds except one, that was the language the engineer used when he stopped the engine on dead center and would have to have some men help pull on the drive belt so he could get it running again.

Threshing Scene - 1920's

Threshing at the M.E. Leinen Farm - 1942.

Norbert Kleffman combining oats with pull type combine.

Combining oats - 1981

The size of the threshing machine was rated by the width of the cylinder, from 22 inches to 40 some inches for the biggest ones. The biggest ones took a lot of help to keep them going, twelve to fourteen bundle racks, spike pitchers in the field and at the machine, several grain haulers, extra scoopers to unload the grain, a man to stack straw, a kid to run the blower for the straw stacker, several water boys to take fresh drinking water to the crew. In all, there might be as many as thirty people involved in the operation.

Coal was burned in these engines and every farmer had to furnish his own coal. The farmers always claimed that the engineer would use it all whether he needed it or not and sometimes a quick trip would be made to the next farm to get coal to move with. It took a lot of work for the farm wife to feed a crew of this size but with the help of neighbor women they always served a very good meal. When the men came in to eat there would be several washtubs of warm water, basins, towels, and soap to clean up with. The women complained that some of the men didn't use any water or soap just dry cleaned with the towel and they would not give them the best of service when they came to the table.

Corn Picking

The two main reasons that some of the farm boys decided early in life to find some other occupation were milking cows by hand and picking corn. Picking started in early October and they hoped to be through by Thanksgiving. This covered a lot of cold weather, snow, frosty

Leo Ohlinger Picking Corn by hand - 1930.

Bert Leinen picking corn with one of the first mechanical pickers in the area. Alfred Ohlinger is picking up downed corn behind the picker.

Picking corn with mounted picker - 1965.

Richard Ohlinger combining corn - 1981.

mornings, rain and a lot of sandburs. Gloves or mittens were a must to protect the hands from the sharp husks, a hook or peg was used to open the husks. A good picker would open the husk, grab the ear, break it from the stalk, and throw it into the wagon with one continuous motion. A good picker could pick a hundred bushels or better in a day. Figuring 100 ears to a bushel he had to throw ten thousand or more ears in a day.

Extra help was usually needed to harvest the crop, young men from Missouri and Kansas would come to this area, to help with the harvest. Many of them stayed, married, and started farming for themselves. There are sons and grandsons of these people farming in this area today.

The hired help was paid by the bushel. The wagons held a bushel to the inch and in estimating the amount of corn some of the inches became pretty small. The farmer couldn't tell this until he shelled out a crib. Then he would know if he had been had or not.

Corn shelling was also a big job. The high wheel wagons at that time carried a box of what was called standard size, three ft. wide, ten ft. long, and 26 inches high. They held one bushel of ear corn or two bushels of shelled corn to the inch, twenty would be needed to hold a thousand bushels. The story is told of the Daeges boys with the steamer on a large sheller had 22 wagons on the road at one time from what was known as the Scott Evans place to Portsmouth. A farmer always had at least one team shod so they could haul during the winter time, they all seemed to have a large horse hide coat that extended almost to the ankle to keep them warm. When a farmer wanted one of these coats, he would skin one of his horses that died and send it to a tanner and have it made into a coat. Many lap robes that were used in buggies and early touring cars were made the same way.

Corn sheller at the Hughes' farm northwest of Portsmouth.

Corn shelling crew - 1942.
Al Rauterkus, Alvin Reinig, August Reinig, Bill Kenkel, Louie Ditzler, John Ohlinger, Mark Feser, Charlie Downey, Joe Huebner, Everett Eims, Matt Fuhs and Bob Reinig (sitting).

Shelling corn - 1981

There were two types of shellers used, one a cylinder sheller and a smaller two or four hole spring sheller. The spring shellers were usually powered by a large one cylinder gas engine and were moved from place to place with horses. The women liked the spring sheller the best. It didn't break up the cobs and were easier to use in their kitchen range.

Lockers and deep freezers were unknown at that time and in order to have meat in the summer time it had to be salted down. Here again it took help from the neighbors. In late winter it was summer butchering time. Large families would butcher as high as ten hogs for their summer supply. On butchering day the farmer would get up extra early to heat water as the hogs were scalded and scraped, not skinned. The hogs were slaughtered, then dipped in a large barrel of hot water. If the water was the right temperature the hogs cleaned easier, if too hot or cold it turned out to be real hard work. When the hogs were cold they were taken in the house and cut up, usually on the kitchen table.

The hams, bacon slabs, and shoulders were put in big crocks covered with a mixture of salt, brown sugar, and various spices. They were left in this brine until the brine went through the meat, then were removed, put in the smoke house and deep smoked. After smoking they could be stored almost any place. The other meat and the trimmings were ground up, mixed with different seasonings, stuffed in casings, and then smoked.

Many of the people cleaned their own casings, but the more timid ones went to the butcher shop and bought them. The head was usually split, the brains removed, then boiled. The stock contained a lot of gelatin. The ears and other odd meat was cut up and with spices was mixed with this stock and is called souse or head cheese. The lard was rendered and used for shortening. The cracklings were saved and used with other odd grease to make home made soap.

Summer time was meat route time. A large group of farmers would get together and establish a route. The local butcher was usually hired to slaughter the steer and cut it in portions small enough that could be eaten in a short time. The farmer whose turn it was to butcher would take the meat on the route. The children of the time enjoyed the route, they visited farmsteads they never saw before and to some of the younger ones it seemed that their knowledge of the earth stretched out a long ways.

Checked Corn

Weeds have always been a problem and in order to control them the corn was planted with a check row wire. The wire had buttons at a predetermined spacing, usually 42 inches, the same as the row width. This spacing was used so a horse could walk between the rows. Normally three kernels were dropped in a hill. There were about 400 hills to a quarter mile and about ten rows to an acre. This gave them a count of twelve thousand plants to an acre, at the present time a stand that low would more than likely be disked up and replanted, as the planting rate today is from twenty thousand and higher. The farmer took great pride in the straightness of his rows and his cross check. The corn was cultivated three times. The first time the way the rows were planted, the second was called crossing corn, and the third was layingby. This method of farming caused a great deal of erosion. In the late thirties, some farmers started to plant their corn on the contour, but it took to the late fifties before checked corn was completely abandoned.

If you asked a farmer at that time how he was doing, he would probably answer "three in a hill" if he was doing all right or "one in a hill" if things were not so good.

Farm Tractors

The farm tractors before the early twenties were used mostly for belt work as they were slow, awkward and not too dependable. The 10/20 and 15/30 International and D John Deere were the first tractors that were really useful in the field. They were well constructed, easy handling and dependable. They were standard tread tractors and were used mostly for plowing and disking. In 1923 International built the regular Farmall, a tricycle design. This tractor was designed to work in row crops. A cultivator, planter, and corn picker could be mounted on it. John Deere at this time built a three row planter and cultivator for their general purpose tractor but this was not a success and later came out with the A, B, and G series. This series as well as the Farmall, were some of the first to come out with individual rear brakes letting them turn in a small arc. Allis Chalmers, Case, Oliver, and some smaller companies introduced their all purpose tractors about the same time. Rubber tires were put on tractors in the late thirties and a faster road gear was installed. Self starters and lights were added about the same time. Hydraulic systems with remote cylinders and power lifts were also developed at this time.

Cook Stoves

Until electric and L P gas ranges were available the cooking, baking, heating of wash water, bath water, irons to press clothes, and heating of the kitchen area was done with the coal and wood burning range. Coal and wood were probably the wrong name for it, more cobs were burned than anything else. Everybody had a cob shed, it was filled whenever corn was shelled. These cobs were clean and without odor. When they ran out, hog pen cobs were used. In front of the range there was a box that held the days supply of cobs. When the cobs from the hog pen heated up a little they left off an odor that left little doubt where they came from, and how close they were sorted when picked up. A few kernels of corn were usually left on the cob and that caused a rodent problem. Many a loud scream was heard from the housewife when she picked up a handful of cobs and a mouse at the same time.

Fred Stein planting corn with G.P. tractor and 3 row planter -1930.

Planting corn - 1981

Harold Leinen with single row cultivator - 1936.

Do you remember....

Runaways with horses.

M.T. Leinen cultivating soybeans - 1981.

Old kitchen range

Many of the early settlers having come from some of the great wine producing areas of Europe (The Rhine Land and Saar valleys) were accustomed to having wine with their meals as we have coffee. When they acquired land for themselves they planted orchards and vineyards. The fruit was canned, dried, and stored fresh for winter use, part of it was used in making wine and cider. They also picked wild fruit and made various kinds of wine. Their stronger liquors and beer were usually purchased. These people were not known to be teetotalers, so when the Eighteenth Amendment was passed they ran into a little problem. They had bought up a supply but that started to run out and something had to be done. Some of the more thirsty ones built stills and made their own. This didn't cause any problems until they started selling their product. That didn't please the law very well so the mash barrels had to be placed in barns, hog sheds, and other places to cover

the smell of the fermenting mash. This made some unsanitary conditions, but it seemed that no one became sick over the product. One operator was said to have put a little lye in his, it made it bite better. The local sheriff didn't get too excited about the product, there is a story that they knew the operators by their first names and were quite familiar with the product, even being able to taste it and tell who made it. The state and federal officials did make a few raids, and some of the operators and sellers spent time in the county jail.

When a little better product was wanted the famous Templeton rye was purchased from a local dealer.

One of the popular beverages was called home brew. If you were going to have neighbors help you, or have Sunday company, you checked your supply. Running out wasn't taken lightly by your friends. It was easy to make. Ten pounds of sugar, one cake of yeast, and one can of malt would make five gallons. It took about three days in warm weather and it was ready to bottle. Everybody had a beer tester, when it sank to the red line it was ready. If bottled too soon it would be wild when opened, this was called dish pan beer, it took a dishpan to catch it. The bottles sometimes blew up making quite a noise. It was usually bottled in quart bottles, some of clear glass, some brown. There was always some discussion whether it tasted better and kept better in one bottle or the other. The only difference I ever could find was a brown bottle didn't have to be cleaned as well as a clear one. There were a few people who would not admit they made beer, so the grocer was reminded that the malt and yeast were used to bake bread.

Most of the leases on farms in this area expire the first of March so that was moving day. The neighbors would arrive early in the morning with grain wagons and hayracks. A hayrack was usually sixteen feet long and seven feet wide. All of the light articles were put on the hayracks. The hard part was loading the wagons. The kitchen range was one of the first things to be loaded. It was made of cast iron and very heavy, and usually a little warm from breakfast. The stovepipe was taken down, and after much warning from the women, soot was scattered about. The warming closet was taken off next, and then the range was lifted off the base and turned sideways to get it out of the door, more soot and more noise.

The coal space heater was next, more soot and more noise. It seemed everybody had a piano so it was usually next to be loaded, and that is when the men made the noise.

Most of the machinery was moved before moving day, but the livestock had to be moved usually after the furniture. The hogs were loaded in wagons and the cattle moved by driving them afoot to their new home. In the evening came scratching time, moving the old hens. It is not known if they all had lice or not, but you always thought you could feel something crawling on you and didn't quit scratching until your clothes were changed and a bath taken.

Moving sometimes caused some hard feelings, some women didn't realize an empty house doesn't look like one that is lived in. Once in a while a remark would be made about the other woman not being a good housekeeper and the word would get back to her by way of neighborhood gossip. Also some farmer might say he was sure glad to get the person he helped move, out of the neighborhood.

Moving was something like musical chairs and sometimes farmers were without a place to move, and therefore that called for a farm sale. Sales were conducted a lot like they are now, one difference was the auctioneers were a lot slower than the present ones. Many times the cattle and other livestock were sold by lantern light. Another difference was free lunch and coffee. The lunch usually consisted of sandwiches, cookies or doughnuts, and maybe an apple or an orange. Coffee was cooked in copper washboilers, and the auctioneer furnished the tin cups. If the coffee was too hot it would burn your lips, and if no pitcher was available you just dipped your cup into the boiler, only one rule, don't get your sleeve wet. You could in a way tell the financial situation of the farmer by the sandwiches served. If he had it made, they were usually ham, also hot weiners on a bun, otherwise it would be minced ham.

Sale day was a sad day for the farmer, many a tear was shed out behind the barn, or maybe in public, as he watched his horses and milk cows led away by the new owner not knowing how they would be treated. It would take a long time before he would forget his main team of horses, he probably raised them on his farm and was with them almost every day of the year. The extra ear of corn he fed them, and how many times as he petted them they would return the favor by nudging him with their muzzle, and he would have to get his big red or blue handkerchief out and wipe off a wet spot. As his favorite milk cow was led away he would remember how his children learned to milk, she would allow milking on both sides and seemed to watch out for the younger ones, even switching her tail a little high to miss them and still scare a few flies. She wasn't like the mean cow that always seemed to enjoy hitting you with her wet tail.

Harold Kleffman Farm Sale - 1980.

Did You Know?

Garden and food crops were very important to the early settlers. According to the 1874 census, the residents of Cass Township raised 3 acres of sorghum, making 115 gallons of molasses. They planted 18 acres of potatoes which yielded 182 bushels, 3/8 acre of onion and 3/8 acre of sweet potatoes were planted, each yielding 10 bushels. They also raised 14 bushels of beets and 295 bushels of turnips.

Past Residents

Amos Bendon - Old time fiddler

Cass Twp. Farm Bureau Ladies Extension Training Program -1932.

Amos Bendon Families

Amos Bendon, son of Demetris and Mary (Downey) Bendon, was born April 28, 1873. He grew up in the Portsmouth area. Amos farmed most of his life. In 1899, he was united in marriage to Harriet O'Banion. She was a native of Pisgah, Iowa. They were the parents of four children: Owen (1900); Hazel (1901), married Dick Gau; Jack (1902); Elva (1904), married Jim White.

Their son, Owen Bendon, married Mary Gau. Their children are: Phyllis Bendon Pash (1926); Richard (1929); Kenneth (1932); Joan Bendon Olsen (1938); Jim (1941). The Bendon family lived at Portsmouth for many years and their children all attended St. Mary's School. Owen Bendons now live in Harlan, Iowa.

Jack Bendon married Margaret Coughlin. They were the parents of three daughters, Kathleen, Pauline and Mary Margaret. Jack Bendons were Portsmouth residents for a number of years. They then moved to Hood River, Oregon.

Elva Bendon married Jim White. They were the parents of one daughter and five sons: Deloris, Donald, Harold, Paul, Gene and Bob. They lived in Portsmouth after their marriage. Jim operated a produce station and also a tavern. Their children all attended St. Mary's School until the family moved to Omaha, Nebraska. Jim White is deceased.

The family history of their daughter, Hazel Gau, will be found elsewhere in this book.

Giles S. Bendon Family

Giles S. Bendon, born 1874, was the son of early settlers, Simon A. and Anastasia (Wagner) Bendon. Giles' father, Simon, moved to a farm west of Portsmouth in 1879, from Iowa County, Iowa. On January 26, 1898, he was married to Anna Herkenrath. She was the daughter of Peter and Mary (Ohlinger) Herkenrath, who had settled northeast of Portsmouth. Anna was born in 1879.

Giles Bendon Family

Giles and Anna were the parents of three children; Marie Bendon (1900-1971), married Ralph Kruger; Peter (1902-1978); Paul (1915).

Giles farmed for two years and then was a grain dealer for forty years. He was on the Volunteer Fire Dept. and was a councilman and mayor for a number of years.

The Bendons were lifelong members of St. Mary's Parish and are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. Their son, Peter, is buried in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Otha Bendon Family

Otha Bendon married Nora Headley at Portsmouth, Iowa. Otha, the son of Simon and Anastasia (Wagner) Bendon, was a farmer and a trash hauler. Otha and Nora were the parents of six children: Eldene (1903-1980), married Frank Pursell; Clifford; Jerry; Robert; Austin; Laura, married Martin Zimmerman. Jerry and Austin were veterans of World War II. Robert and Laura are the only surviving members of this family.

Otha and Nora Bendon

Nora Headley Bendon was born in 1880 and passed away in 1966. Mr. and Mrs. Bendon are buried in Omaha, Nebraska.

Paul Bendon Family

Paul Bendon was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, in 1915. He is the son of the late Giles and Anna (Herkenrath) Bendon. On May 31, 1938, he married Marita Leinen at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth. Marita was born in 1915. She was the daughter of Michael E. and Anna (Sondag) Leinen. They were the parents of six children: Ann Bendon Wieberg (1939); Rose Marie Bendon Basque (1942); Paul, Jr. (1945); Mary Susan Bendon Soha (1948); Margaret Bendon Ryan (1949); Michael (1953).

Paul Bendon played on championship basketball and baseball teams for Portsmouth while he was in high school. He, at one time, operated the Persia Elevator. He also worked at the Martin Bomber Plant in WWII. He worked many years as a steel worker and is now retired. Paul is also a baseball umpire.

Marita Bendon passed away in 1955. Paul remarried in 1965. His wife is the former Henrietta Lanning. The Bendon family have lived in Omaha since the 1940's.

Joseph Blum Family

Joseph Blum was born at Panama, Iowa, on January 4, 1890. He was the son of Michael and Kathrine Blum. On April 29, 1913, he was married to Margaret Hammes at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth. Margaret is the daughter of early Cass Township settlers, Frank and Susan (Ludwig) Hammes. She was born January 18, 1893. After their marriage they farmed west of Panama, Iowa. They were the parents of four children: Susan Blum Stracke (1914); Edwin (1918); Kathrine Blum Britton (1922-1962); Geneva Blum Zimmer (1926).

Joe Blum Family

After Joe's death in 1968, Margaret continued to make her home in Panama where they had lived in retirement. She moved to the Senior Citizen Apartments in Portsmouth in 1975. She resided there until August of 1981, when she moved to an apartment in Omaha, Nebraska, to be closer to her family. This is where she now resides.

John Buman Family

John Buman, longtime member of St. Mary's Parish in Portsmouth, married Helen Rosman on January 15, 1908. They moved to a farm in Lincoln Twp., southeast of Portsmouth, where they resided until their deaths. John died in 1939 and Helen in 1961.

They were the parents of five children: Edwin; Corinne (married Omer Anastasi); Bernice (married Joe Schomer); Wanda (married Joseph Jurschak); Kenneth.

John Buman was a trustee of St. Mary's Parish for many years.

Wilfred (Slim) Burns

Wilfred Burns' mother, Alice Burns, ran the hotel in Portsmouth, and he helped her in this business. Wilfred had three sisters and three brothers, Jack, Fern, Bill, Marie, Stella and Kathaleen. He also had a half brother and sister, Renzo and Ann Towl.

After his mother's death, Wilfred, who was crippled at age eighteen when the horses ran away with him, drove a Model T Ford to Pennsylvania. There he married his childhood sweetheart, Ann Morresy. They came back to Portsmouth where she helped him with the hotel and later a rooming house.

Wilfred and Ann Burns

Slim played Banjo and Guitar and taught many of the young folks in the area to play. In later years, he travelled in the country, selling Watkins Products.

Wilfred and Ann are both now deceased.

Leonard Byrnes Family

Leonard J. Byrnes and Carrie I. Osterlund were married in Sioux City, Iowa on September 4, 1918. Leonard, the son of James and Maria (Hogan) Byrnes, was born July 19, 1896. Carrie was the daughter of Louis and Nellie (Olsen) Osterlund. She was born January 7, 1898. They were the parents of four children: Leola, 1920; Howard, 1922; Patrick, 1932; Merle (Mike), 1934. All four of the Byrnes children served in the U.S. Navy for four years or more.

Leonard Byrnes Family

The Byrnes' were in the grocery business in Portsmouth from 1942 to 1946. After leaving Portsmouth, they farmed near Harlan for a number of years. Leonard passed away in 1978 and Carrie in 1980. They are buried in the Harlan, Iowa, cemetery.

Robert J. Cairney Family

The Robert Cairney family moved to Portsmouth, Iowa, in 1949, from Johnson, Minnesota. Bob became manager of Cargill which was later sold to Ed Bowles. Robert Cairney and Irene Geheren were married on February 7, 1939, at Holy Rosary Church, Graceville, Minnesota. Robert, born in 1917, is the son of Alfred and Julia (Kirwin) Cairney. Irene's parents were John and Mary (Dwyer) Geheren. They are the parents of: Richard (1939); Robert (1940); John (1942); Pat (1946); Ralph "Poke" (1947); Julie Cairney Neill (1949); Barbara (1952); Michael (1954); Tony (1956); Nancy Cairney Schwery (1957); Daniel (1959), deceased.

Bob and Irene lived in Portsmouth until 1967. They then moved to Earling, Iowa, where Bob became manager of Thrasher Seed, Feed and Grain. They reside in Earling, Iowa.

Victor Case Family

Victor Case was born June 14, 1895. He was the son of Alexander and Susan (Chappell) Case. He was married on June 6, 1917, to Cecelia Green. She was born May 6, 1894. To this union were born four sons: Richard (1921); Eugene (1926); Thomas (1928); Francis (1929). The Case family lived on a farm west of Portsmouth for many years and their sons attended St. Mary's High School.

Victor Case served in the U.S. Army during World War I. He died in 1964 and his wife in 1972. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Michael J. Coughlin Family

Michael J. Coughlin's parents, Thomas and Margaret (Haggerty) Coughlin, were natives of Ireland. After leaving their native land, they settled in Canada. They moved to the Portsmouth area in 1879. On February 4, 1902, Michael married Gertrude Korth at Portsmouth, Iowa. Gertrude was the daughter of Peter and Anna (Leinen) Korth, early settlers of Portsmouth. Gertrude was born in 1880.

There were seven children in the Michael Coughlin family: Mary Coughlin (1903-1940); Rose Coughlin Leuck (1907); Elizabeth Coughlin Wolf (1909); Leo (1913-1979); James (1918-1976); Gale (1921); Rita Coughlin Hoffman (1923).

Michael passed away in 1935 and Gertrude in 1975.

Patrick M. Coughlin Family

Patrick M. Coughlin was born in Canada in 1871. His parents, Thomas and Margaret (Haggerty) Coughlin, were natives of Ireland. They came to Shelby County in 1879. On November 16, 1897, he was married to Anna Korth. She was the daughter of Peter and Anna (Leinen) Korth. They were the parents of five daughters and one son: Gertrude Coughlin Mohr; Mary Coughlin Craven; Margaret Coughlin Bendon; Ann Coughlin Potter; Rosalie; Leon (known as Irish). Ann and Rosalie are the only living members of this family.

Patrick Coughlin farmed and then went into the furniture and undertaking business. Mr. Coughlin passed away in 1941. His wife resided in Omaha, Nebraska until her death in 1955. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Laurence Nicholas Downey Family

Laurence Downey and Rosalia Anna Korth were married in Long Beach, California on May 27, 1913. Laurence, the son of James and Frances (White) Downey, was born December 20, 1887. Rosalia was the daughter of Peter and Anna (Leinen) Korth, early Portsmouth settlers. She was born in 1894. The Downeys were the parents of five children: Mildred, 1913 (married Fred Porter, after his death, married Zean R. Hart); Patricia, 1915 (married Dean Ellison, after his death, married Hoot Gibson, and after his death she married Gerald Redman); James, 1917; John, 1919; Margaret, 1921 (married Robert Williams). All of the Downey children were educated in St. Mary's Grade School.

Laurence Downey passed away in 1922. Rose moved to Portsmouth in 1922 and built a house in the same block as the Korth family home. In 1930, Rose married Harry F. Stewart. He died in 1935. She passed away in 1962. They are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Kearney F. Elder Family

Kearney Elder, son of Anselm and Emma (Miller) Elder, was born May 29, 1882. He married Mary Edith Honeywell, daughter of John and Mary (Shotwell) Honeywell. She was born July 9, 1883. To this union were born two children, LeVern, 1909-1929, and Madeline, 1913 (married Leo Ohlinger).

Kearney was a carpenter. His wife did rug weaving on her loom and weaved rugs for many people in the area. Mary passed away in 1939. Kearney died in 1964.

Harley E. Ellison Family

Harley E. Ellison and Mary Helen (Monahan) Ellison were the parents of four children: Carol Ellison Jeffers (1943); Kathleen Ellison Commorata (1944); Richard (1949); Mary Patricia Ellison Foley (1950). The Ellison children were born during the years the family lived at Portsmouth, Iowa.

Harley Ellison was born August 15, 1920, and passed away in 1962. Mary Helen Ellison's parents were Patrick and Irene (Schumacher) Monahan. She was born October 2, 1924.

The Ellison family moved from Portsmouth to Council Bluffs, Iowa. Mary Helen remarried in 1974 and she and her husband, Robert J. Dixon, reside in Council Bluffs.

Frank J. Frederick Family

Frank J. Frederick and Kathryn M. Parkinson were married on April 25, 1922, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Frank's parents were Peter L. and Mary Susan (Korth) Frederick. They were members of early pioneer families. Frank was born May 19, 1898. Kathryn was the daughter of John and Mary A. (Deets) Parkinson. They had moved to Portsmouth from Lenox, Iowa in 1920. Kathryn was born October 29, 1898. There are four children in the Frederick family: Frances, 1923 (married Bill Schmitz, after his death, she married Dr. Charles Webber); Harold, 1924; Dorothy, 1928 (married Marvin Kenkel); Richard, 1932.

Frank was the rural mail carrier at Portsmouth for forty years. He retired in 1960. Frank passed away in 1972 and Kathryn in 1979. They are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Frank and Kathryn Frederick

Jacob Fuhs Family

Jacob Fuhs was born in Keokuk County, Iowa, in 1886. He was the son of Jacob and Eva (Reinig) Fuhs. He was married to Margaret Trierweiler in Bonesteel, South Dakota, in 1912. She was the daughter of Matthew and Anna (Perzborn) Trierweiler. She was born in 1891. They were the parents of two children, Rosalia, 1913 (married Tony Kaufman), and Ralph, 1916-1918.

Jacob was a lifelong farmer. He and his wife retired and moved into Portsmouth several years before their deaths. Jacob passed away in 1966 and Margaret in 1971.

Lawrence Funk Family

Lawrence Funk was born January 13, 1889, at White Lake, South Dakota. His parents, Michael and Josephine (Pfeifer) Funk, were homesteaders. After his mother's death in 1893, his father brought the family to Earling, Iowa so that relatives could help raise the children.

On November 22, 1919, Lawrence married Barbara Windeshausen at Rawlings, Wyoming. She was the daughter of Nicholas and Theresa (Mark) Windeshausen from Westphalia, Iowa. After their marriage, they resided in Hampton, Virginia until 1928. Four of their sons were born in Virginia; Lawrence, Jr., 1920; Herbert, 1922; Alfred, 1924; Harold, 1926. In 1928, Lawrence moved his family to a farm near Panama, Iowa. In 1933 he moved to the John Bruck farm north of Portsmouth. Their other children were born while living at Panama and Portsmouth. They are: Joseph, 1929; Josephine, 1931 (married George Arkfeld); Cecelia, 1933 (married Walter Wegner); Marie; 1936-1936; Francis, 1940.

Lawrence served as a chauffeur in the U.S. Army in World War I. He lived on the farm until his death in 1968. His wife, Barbara, moved into Portsmouth in 1970 and resided in the Senior Citizen home until failing health took her to the Little Flower Haven at Earling, Iowa, where she died in 1974. Their son, Francis, still farms the farm they lived on those many years.

Clair O. Galiher Family

Clair Galiher served in the Fourth South Dakota National Guard and then transferred to the United States Army in 1917. He served in France during World War I. On June 4, 1917, at Mitchel, South Dakota, Clair was married to Orpha Crombie. She is the daughter of Abel Wilder and Margaret

Clair Galiher Family

Ann (Parnell) Crombie, and she was born July 4, 1895. Clair's parents were John and Emma (McDermott) Galliher. He was born January 8, 1895.

They are the parents of six children: Margaret, 1920 (married Leonard Butterbaugh); Dorothy, 1921 (married Veral Smith); John, 1923; Lillian, 1924 (married Williard Schechinger); Everett, 1927; Vernita, 1931 (married Ralph Leake).

The Galiher family moved to Portsmouth from Neola, Iowa, in 1924. Clair was the Section Foreman for The Milwaukee Railroad at Portsmouth. He retired from the railroad in 1960 and moved to Persia, Iowa in 1969.

Arnold P. Gau Family

Arnold Gau was born at Westphalia, Iowa, May 16, 1877. He was the son of Chris and Anna (Pickard) Gau. On April 18, 1899, he was married to Anna Leinen at St. Mary's Church. She was the daughter of Mathias and Anna (Hammes) Leinen, and she was born February 10, 1877. The Gaus' and Leinens' were the early settlers in Cass Township. After their marriage, they lived on a farm near Portsmouth.

Arnold and Anna were the parents of six children: Arnold C., 1900; Andrew, "Dick," 1902; Mary Gau Bendon, 1905; Mike, 1908; Pauline Gau Howe, 1912; Rita Gau Barta, 1915.

After Arnold moved to town he did carpenter work. He will be remembered as the leader of the Portsmouth Band. The Gaus' were lifelong members of St. Mary's Parish.

Frank Gessert Sr. Family

Frank Gessert and Catherine Michalski were married in Corpus Christa Church, Bakervill, Wisconsin, October 25, 1905. Frank was born in 1882 and Catherine was born in 1885. They were the parents of twelve children: Frank, Jr., 1906-1980; Arnold, 1907-1955; Margaret, 1908 (married John McLaughlin); Regina, 1910 (married John Waltz); Cecelia, 1911 (married Hubert Zimmerman); Elvera, 1913 (married Fred Pauley); Laone, 1915 (married Jake Waltz); Ralph, 1917-1918; Donald, 1920-1974; Bernadine, 1923 (married Glenn Hughes); Virginia, 1924 (married Nick Waltz); Catherine, 1926 (married Lee Rockwell).

The Gesserts farmed for many years and then moved to town where they resided until their deaths. Their son, Arnold, served in the Army during World War II. Catherine passed away in 1962 and Frank in 1966. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Donald Gibson Family

Donald Gibson, the son of Harry and Jessie (White) Gibson, was born in 1909. His father had come to the Portsmouth area from Wheeling, West Virginia, and moved to a farm northwest of Portsmouth. Donald Gibson and Norma Mikesell were married at Harlan, Iowa on December 23, 1933. Norma's parents were J.G. and Mabelle (Condron) Mikesell. The Gibsons are the parents of two sons, David, 1936 and Donald, 1938.

Don farmed southeast of Portsmouth for a number of years before moving to his farm north of Shelby, Iowa. His son, David, now lives on the farm by Portsmouth.

Harry Howard Gibson, Jr. Family

Harry Gibson and Alice Hughes were married at Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 3, 1928. Harry was born June 27, 1903, and he is the son of the late Harry and Jessie (White) Gibson. His parents lived on a farm northwest of Portsmouth. Alice Hughes is the daughter of the late Bert and Lenora (Delph) Hughes. The Hughes were longtime residents of the Portsmouth vicinity. Alice was born December 2, 1904. The Harry Gibsons are the parents of two children, Gerald E., 1929, and Donna, 1934 (married Harold Lansman).

Harry H. Gibson, Jr. Family

Harry and Alice Gibson lived on a farm east of Portsmouth until moving to their present home in Harlan, Iowa in September of 1977.

Emery Green Family

Emery Green was born in Johnson County, Iowa on September 14, 1868. He came to Cass Township with his parents, Wm. F. and Nancy (Doner) Green, in 1876. They were some of the first settlers in Cass Township. On January 22, 1896, Emery married Dora Marie Gries at Harlan, Iowa. She was the daughter of Henry and Pauline (Butzloff) Gries, and she was born November 24, 1877. They were the parents of seven children: Ruby Green Christensen (1898-1956); Grant (1900-1962); Elsie L. Green Juhl (1903); Ralph (1905-1976); Pauline Green Escher (1908); Claude (1911); Jennie Green McLaughlin (1915).

Emery and Dora Green lived on a farm settled by his father and uncle, which they later purchased. Mrs. Green helped organize the Pioneer Country Club in September of 1925.

Emery Green Family

After the death of both of his parents, their son, Grant, purchased his father's farm in 1953. In 1962, he sold the farm to Russell Haas who is still the present owner.

Fredrick Grote Family

Fredrick Richard Grote, the son of William and Julia (Lustgraff) Grote, was born at Neola, Iowa. He moved to Portsmouth with his parents in 1935. On January 11, 1944, he married Loretta Daeges at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Loretta is the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Thomas) Daeges. She was born in 1925. Fred and Loretta are the parents of seven children: Jean Grote Jensen (1947); Jerry (1948); Nancy (1950); Connie Grote McElderry (1953); Mary Grote Van Camp (1955); Mark (1959); Ronald (1964).

Fred Grote served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945. The Grotes farmed east of Portsmouth for a number of years. The family moved to Harlan, Iowa, where they now reside. Fred is a custodian at Harlan Community High School.

Anthony Grund Family

Anthony Grund and Cecelia Foxhoven were married at Earling, Iowa, November 23, 1937. Anthony "Tony" was the son of Robert and Mary (Leinen) Grund. Cecelia's parents were William and Anna (Engel) Foxhoven. They were the parents of two daughters, Theresa Grund Schroer (1939), and Rita Grund Nepple (1941).

Tony farmed and did custom butchering in the Portsmouth area. Cecelia died in 1954 and Tony in 1978. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Herbert Gubbels Family

Herbert Matis Gubbels was born near Panama, Iowa, on March 16, 1910. Herbert was the son of William and Louise (Horn) Gubbels. On February 17, 1936, he married Bernice Wiese at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Bernice is the daughter of Frank and Margaret (Hafebier) Wiese. Two children were born to this union, Norma Jean, 1938 (married Dale Wren), and Marlin, 1949.

Herbert farmed south of Portsmouth until his death in 1965. He also worked as a plumber for Anastasi Plumbing and Heating in Harlan, Ia.

Marlin served in the Army in Germany and Viet Nam for four years. Bernice Gubbels moved to Harlan in 1966.

On April 22, 1972, she was married to Walter Mordhorst of Omaha, Nebraska. They reside in Harlan, Iowa.

Lawrence Gubbels Family

Lawrence Gubbels and Eva Leinen were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, January 20, 1931. Lawrence's parents were William and Louise (Horn) Gubbels. He was born April 14, 1908. Eva is the daughter of early Cass Township residents, Peter M. and Anna (Ohlinger) Leinen. She was born November 1, 1910. Lawrence and Eva were the parents of one daughter and five sons: Gerald (1932); Vernon (1934); Dorothy (1937), married Kenneth Arkfeld; Raymond (1939); Marvin (1940); Lawrence Jr. (1942).

Their sons, Gerald and Marvin, served in the Army and Vernon served in the Air Force.

Lawrence was employed in Harlan for many years. He died in 1955. Eva continued to make her home in Portsmouth until moving to the Westridge Apartments in Harlan, Iowa, several years ago.

Anthony Joseph Herkenrath Family

Anthony "Pal" Herkenrath was born on the family farm in Cass Township, January 10, 1886. He was the son of Peter and Mary (Ohlinger) Herkenrath. They had come to Shelby County, Cass Township, in 1875. His father, Peter, was a farmer and merchant. On October 14, 1913, he was married to Anna Marie Skalla at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. She was the daughter of John and Kathryn (Pinter) Skalla, and she was born at Carroll, Iowa, December 7, 1885. Her father came to America from Austria in 1874, and her mother was born in Germany.

Anthony worked in his father's store and in 1912, he was taken into partnership with his father and brother, John J. The store was then known as P. Herkenrath & Sons. He was in this business until 1942.

Anthony and Anna were the parents of two children, Lucille (1915), married Peter J. Jurschak, Jr., and Vernon (1918), married Delores Olig.

Anna Herkenrath was killed in an automobile accident in Wisconsin on September 1, 1928, while returning from a vacation. "Pal" married Marie Sorenson in 1957 and lived in Omaha, Nebraska. He passed away in 1970. Anthony and Anna are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

During his life, Pal was an avid baseball fan. He was an honorary member of the Portsmouth Fire Department for over 30 years.

John J. Herkenrath Family

John J. Herkenrath and Dolly Whaley were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, April 27, 1909. John was the son of early Cass Township settlers, Peter and Mary (Ohlinger) Herkenrath. He was born March 28, 1878. Dolly's parents were Gilbert and Orilla (Hillyer) Whaley. She was born March 2, 1888. They were the parents of six children: Bernice (1910), married Bernard Rogers; Bernard (1914-1980); Philip (1916); Aurelia (1919), married Charles Spears; Valera (1920-1981), married Max Gillette; Bonnie (1922), married Dane Peterson.

John was a partner with his father and brother in a general store which was known as P. Herkenrath & Sons. He served as the postmaster at Portsmouth for many years. John served as president of State Bank of Portsmouth for over 50 years. He was also the mayor at one time and fire chief for many years.

John and Dolly celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. John died in 1972 and Dolly in 1974. They are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Anthony "Pal" and Anna Herkenrath

John J. Herkenrath Family

Vernon Anthony Herkenrath Family

Vernon Herkenrath, the only son of Anthony "Pal" and Anna (Skalla) Herkenrath, was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, January 17, 1918. He graduated from St. Mary's School in 1935. He was married to Delores Olig at St. Vincent Ferrier's Catholic Church in Vallejo, California, February 15, 1939.

Delores is the daughter of the late Matthias and Susanna (Leinen) Olig.

Vernon and Delores are the parents of five children: Vernon J. (1939); Anthony (1942); James (1944). Those three children were born at Vallejo, California. Paul Joseph (1948), and Luann Herkenrath Bearden (Gerald) (1948), were born at Portsmouth, Iowa.

Vernon served his apprenticeship at U.S. Mare Island Naval Shipyard as a shipfitter. He retired as a foreman shipfitter after thirty years of Civil Service and resides in Vallejo, California.

William H. Gubbels Family

William Gubbels was a native of Wisconsin. His parents came from Holland and settled there. William was born in 1865. Louise Horn was also born in Wisconsin. Her parents, Arnold and Amelia Horn, came to Wisconsin from Luxemborg, Germany. Louise was born in 1878. William and Louise were married in 1894 at St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, Iowa. Ten children were born to this union: Lee; Eleanor (married Bernard Schmitz); Sidonia; Frances (married Henry Heller); Lawrence; Herbert; Helen (married Isadore Schwery); Armella (married Cyril Monahan); Greg; Victor.

After their marriage, the Gubbels farmed northeast of Portsmouth. All of the children, except the two youngest, were born there. After moving to Texas for a short time, the family moved to a farm south of Portsmouth. They resided there until the early 1930's when they moved to Atlantic, Iowa. They lived there until their deaths; William in 1944 and Louise in 1963.

Louise Gubbel's parents, Arnold and Amelia Horn, also lived at Portsmouth for some years. The Gubbels and Horns are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

John Huebner Family

John Huebner and Lena Plambeck were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. John was born in 1879. Lena was the eldest daughter of William and Clementine (Emkie) Plambeck. She was born in 1887. They were the parents of nine children: Clementine Huebner Willems; Bill; Robert; Alma Huebner Wright; John; Pauline Huebner Ohlinger; Helen Huebner Leinen; Marian Huebner Pedersen; Harold.

John Huebner Family

John Huebner was a lifelong farmer. He and his wife retired and moved into Portsmouth in 1954. John passed away in 1965. Lena died in 1962.

Bert Hughes Family

Bert L. Hughes came from Johnson County, Iowa, to a farm northwest of Portsmouth in 1894. Bert was born October 12, 1876. He was the son of Wm. F. and Mary Ann (Long) Hughes. He was married at Shelby, Iowa, March 16, 1904, to Lenora Delph, daughter of Edward and Sara (Hedrick) Delph. She was born October 27, 1882. Bert and Lenora were the parents of two children, Alice (1904), married Harry Gibson, and Esther (1906), who died in infancy.

Bert and Lenora Hughes

The Hughes' farmed west of Portsmouth until retiring and moving to Portsmouth in 1955. They lived in Portsmouth until Mrs. Hughes' death in 1959. Mr. Hughes then went to live with his daughter for seven years. Due to failing health, he went to the Avoca Nursing Home where he spent his remaining years. He died in 1967. Bert and Lenora Hughes are buried in the Cass Township Cemetery.

Wendell Jacobs Family

Wendell Jacobs was born at Portsmouth, Iowa. He was the son of Nicholas and Margaret (Hammes) Jacobs, early residents of Cass Township. On September 20, 1921, at Portsmouth, he was married to Minnie Rehder. Her parents were August and Anna (Hilbert) Rehder. They were the parents of three children: Virginia (1922), married Sylvan Bissen; Eugene (1925); Gerald (1929).

Wendell farmed east of Portsmouth many years. They then moved to a farm near Kirkman, Iowa. They resided on that farm until his death in 1963. His wife moved to Harlan, Iowa, where she now resides.

Elmer Johansen Family

Elmer Johansen and Cathrine Christensen were married September 22, 1931. Elmer's parents were Otto and Elizabeth (Kuster) Johansen. Cathrine, the daughter of Chris and Mattie (Label) Christensen, was born May 16, 1908. They are the parents of two daughters, Imogene (1935), married George Kelley, and Rita (1937), married Richard Peterson.

Elmer has farmed most of his lifetime. The Johansens lived on their farm northwest of Portsmouth until retiring and moving to Woodbine several years ago. Cathrine "Katie" taught school, both in rural and town school, for many years. They reside in Woodbine, Iowa.

Elmer and Cathrine Johansen

Herman Kenkel Family

Herman Kenkel and Katherine Eva Kobold were married January 11, 1921 at Seneca, South Dakota. Herman, son of Bernard and Mary (Flammang) Kenkel, was born May 30, 1898. Katherine was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Muschitz) Kobold. She was born March 15, 1899. They were the parents of seven children: Irene Kenkel Corn (1921); Donald B. (1925-1976); Marvin (1928); Charles (1931); Jeanette (1935), married Jim Bowen; Urban (1939); Dean (1945).

The Kenkel family moved to the Portsmouth area from Earling, Iowa in 1943. Herman was killed in a tractor-train accident near his farm in 1950. The Kenkel family moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1953. Katherine Kenkel died in 1980. Mr. and Mrs. Kenkel and their son, Donald, are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

John Kleffman Family

John Kleffman, son of Fred and Bernadina (Henrichs) Kleffman, was born at Westphalia, Iowa, August 25, 1889. On June 27, 1916, he was married to Frances Rau at Westphalia, Iowa. Frances was the daughter of Michael and Mary (Lockmann) Rau. She was born September 12, 1890. To this union were born ten children: Ralph (1917); Harold (1918); Walter (1920-1976); Norbert (1921); Charlotte (1923), married Paul McDermott; Harry (1925); Alice (1927); Richard (1930-1972); Mary Ann (1932), married Leon Schueller; James (1934).

John farmed southeast of Portsmouth until the family moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa in the mid 1940's. Their sons, Ralph and Richard, served in the Army, and their youngest son, Father James Kleffman is now an Army Chaplain serving in Germany.

John passed away in 1969 and his wife in 1973. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. Richard Kleffman is buried in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Stephen Lefeber Family

Stephen John Lefeber was born at Fon du Lac, Wisconsin on April 13, 1873. He was the son of Peter and Apolonia Lefeber. He was married to Christine Foxhoven. Her parents were William and Ann Foxhoven. She was born July 19, 1880. They were the parents of seven children: Peter; John; Leoneda Lefeber Fuhs; Cecelia Lefeber Voge; Dorothy Lefeber LaRue; Lyda Lefeber Hensley; Apolonia Lefeber Morrissey.

Steve Lefeber Family

Stephen farmed for many years and then he operated an oil station in Portsmouth. He passed away in 1949, and Christine passed away in 1958. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Constant A. Leinen Family

Constant A. Leinen, son of early Cass Township settlers, Constant and Gertrude (Korth) Leinen, was born in 1873. He married Kate Baxter at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa. Kate's parents, George and Maggie (Yochem) Baxter, had come to Shelby County from Kendall County, Illinois. Kate was born in 1879. The Constant A. Leinens were the parents of four children: Raymond (1905); Gertrude (1907), married Henry Huebert; Leonard (1910); Dorothy (1916-1922).

The Leinens were farmers and lived on a farm west of Portsmouth for many years. Constant died in 1950 and Kate in 1962. Their grandson, Gerald Huebert, now lives on the Leinen home place.

Constant H. Leinen Family

Constant H. Leinen and Rose Greiner were married November 26, 1908. Constant, son of Peter M. and Emma (Hammes) Leinen, was born March 9, 1885 at Portsmouth, Iowa. Rose was the daughter of Nick and Anna Greiner. She was born at Westphalia, Iowa, April 13, 1887. They were the parents of three daughters: Emma, married John Lefeber; Dorothy, married Ray Williams; Catherine, married Norman Weiging.

Constant Leinen farmed southeast of Portsmouth for many years. He and his wife lived in retirement in Harlan,

Constant and Kate Leinen

Constant H. and Rose Leinen

Iowa, until their deaths. Constant died in 1944, and Rose passed away in 1972.

Jacob Leinen

Jacob Leinen will be remembered by many of the middle aged residents of Portsmouth, who attended St. Mary's School, as the janitor and grounds - keeper of the Parish. Keeping the furnaces going in the winter, manicuring the lawns in the summer, and ringing the Angelus three times a day were a few of his many and varied duties. Jacob's wife, Elizabeth, helped him much of the time. Jacob Leinen, son of Constant and Gertrude (Korth) Leinen, was born in 1876. His wife, Elizabeth, was born in 1888. She was the daughter of the Hubert Dohms of Earling, Iowa. She passed away in 1949 and Jacob died in 1956.

Michael E. Leinen Family

Michael E. Leinen and Anna Sondag were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, April 28, 1909. Michael and Anna were both members of early settler families in the Portsmouth community. Michael's parents were Mathias and Anna (Hammes) Leinen. He was born November 7, 1880. Anna was born August 14, 1888. She was the daughter of Theodore and Mary (Korth) Sondag. They were the parents of: Theodora (1910), married E.J. Rosenthal; Edwin, deceased; Marita (1915-1955), married Paul Bendon; Augusta (1918), married Wesley Stamp; Michael (1920); Mary Margaret (1922), married Jack Langer; Paul (1926); Rose Ann (1928), married James Slaven. Three sons were deceased at birth.

M.E. Leinen Family

Michael E. Leinen purchased a farm adjacent to Portsmouth at the turn of the century and he and his wife resided on this farm until his death in 1962. The farm is now owned and operated by a son, Michael T.

The Leinens were pioneer members of St. Mary's Church and were active in church and community affairs. Anna passed away in 1965. All deceased members of this family are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Michael D. Leinen Family

Michael D. Leinen was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, February 26, 1895. He was the son of Peter M. and Emma (Hammes) Leinen. They were the early settlers in Cass Township. He received his education in St. Mary's School, as did all of his children. On February 6, 1917, he was married to Flora E. Stinn of Earling. She was the daughter

M.D. Leinen Family

of Casper and Agnes (Nowatzke) Stinn. She was born March 5, 1895. Mike and Flora were the parents of nine children: Luella (married Ernest Hendricks); Rita (married John N. Stein); Marcus; Arlene (married Joe S. Reinig); Art; Mary Ellen (married Walter Reisz); Cleo (married Harold Lefeber); Robert; Lois (married Duane Book).

Michael farmed all of his life on the farm south of Portsmouth. Flora passed away in 1956 and Michael continued to live on the farm. In 1970, he semi-retired from farming but continued to live on the farm. He was still residing there at the time of his death in April of 1981.

Peter F. Leinen Family

Peter F. Leinen was the son of early Cass Township settlers, Mathias and Anna (Hammes) Leinen. On February 9, 1915, he was married to Mary Margaret Theilen. She was the daughter of the Nick Theilens. Peter and Mary were the parents of ten children: Agnes, Leinen Hodapp (1915); Helena Leinen Albert (1917); Louis (1919); Harold (1921); Anna Leinen Kenny (1923); Evelyn Leinen Long (1925); Barbara Leinen Goodman (1927); Matt (1929-1951); Rosemary Leinen Laing (1931); Lawrence (1935). Their son, Matt, died in Korea. Barbara is also deceased.

Peter F. Leinen Family

Peter farmed east of Portsmouth most of his life. He was also a part time carpenter. They retired and moved into Portsmouth for a number of years. Peter is now deceased. Mary resides at the Little Flower Haven in Earling, Iowa.

Valden E. Leytham

Valden E. Leytham was born September 11, 1899. He is the son of the late Richard and Nora (Jagamen) Leytham. He was married at Rockport, Mo., August 11, 1928, to Maude Arnold, daughter of Orville and Ethel (Musgrove) Arnold. She was born April 16, 1901. They were the parents of one child, a stillborn son, on September 12, 1930.

Valden received his education through the 8th grade at the Leland Grove School south of Portsmouth, Iowa. He also attended the Portsmouth High School for one year. His parents were early settlers in the Leland Grove area.

The Leythams farmed for many years and retired in 1965. They are residents of Woodbine, Iowa.

Max Martens Family

Max Martens (1873-1932) and Anna M. Dreier (1878-1928) were married near Portsmouth, Iowa on February 9, 1898. Max and Anna were both natives of Schleswig-Holstein Germany. Anna was the daughter of Chris and Anna (Gottburg) Dreier. They came to the Portsmouth area about 1885. After their marriage, the Martens lived on a farm southwest of Portsmouth until 1900. After living near Minden, they returned to the area and lived west of Portsmouth until 1910, when they moved near Persia, Iowa.

Max and Anna Martens

They were the parents of: Harry (1898-1971); Walter (1900-1968); Alice Martens Kilgore (1902-1952); Lillie Martens Matthiessen (1905); Raymond (1908-1973); Verna Martens Otto (1911-1970); two sons died in infancy, Paul (1904), and Marvin (1916).

Members of the family buried at Valleyview Cemetery, Persia, Ia. are Max, Anna, Walter and Verna Otto. Harry is buried at Treynor, Ia., Alice Kilgore at Missouri Valley and Raymond at Fremont, Nebr.

Peter W. Matthiessen Family

Peter W. Matthiessen (1860-1908), a native of Schleswig-Holstein Germany, and Anna Maria Gloh (1852-1918), also a native of that same area in Germany, were married in 1891 near Portsmouth, Iowa. They lived on farms in the Portsmouth and Persia area. They were the parents of two sons, Peter William (1892-1952), and August (1894-1911).

Peter W. and Anna Matthiessen

Their son, Peter William Matthiessen, was married to Lillie Martens on November 31, 1922. They farmed in the Persia and Shelby areas until his death in 1952. Lillie still lives in Shelby.

Peter W. and Anna Maria are buried at Minden, Iowa.

Richard Mester Family

Richard Mester owned and operated the General Store in Portsmouth for over forty years. He started in business around the turn of the century. Richard and Susan (Walker) Mester were the parents of eight children: Andrew, Hilda Mester Von Tersch, Eva Mester Monahan, Devota Mester Avis, Alfred, Germain Mester LaFebvre, Kenneth and Richard.

After disposing of his interest in the store, the family moved to Mapleton, Iowa. They resided there until moving

Richard and Susan Mester

to California. Mr. and Mrs. Mester passed away in California. All of the Mester children are still living.

The McAndrews Families

Michael J. and Sara (Cosgrove) McAndrews farmed northwest of Portsmouth. They had a family of eight children: Mary Margaret (married Richard Powers); Harry; Thomas; Michael; John Philip; James; Anthony; Louis. The family were some of the early members of St. Mary's Parish.

Harry McAndrews (1883-1961) married Ann Ebert. They were the parents of three sons, Harold (deceased), Leo "Pat," and Robert. Harry worked as a mechanic for Leo A. Monahan garage for many years. He also ran a road grader. The family lived at Portsmouth until moving to Sioux City, Iowa in the late 1930's.

John Philip McAndrews was born June 11, 1896. He married Mary Ellen Queeney. She was born June 26, 1891. They were the parents of twelve children: Donald (1917); Gerald (1918-1968); Felix (1920-1950); Dale (1922-1970); Mildred McAndrews Dibiase (1923); Jean McAndrews Szczepanowski (1926); Mary McAndrews Cannella Albon (1928); Carmen McAndrews Leahy (1930); John, Jr. (1932-1937); William (1934); Terence (1937-1975); Neil (1939).

The John Philip McAndrews family farmed northwest of Portsmouth until moving to Omaha, Nebraska. He passed away in 1964 and his wife passed away in 1966.

Michael McLaughlin Family

Michael J. McLaughlin, son of John J. and Margaret (Reidy) McLaughlin, was born September 29, 1904. On

December 27, 1927, he was married to Sara Powers at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Sara's parents were Richard J. and Mary Margaret (McAndrews) Powers. She was born February 1, 1910. The McLaughlin and Powers families were early residents of the Portsmouth area. Mike and Sara McLaughlin were the parents of seven children: Evelyn McLaughlin Talbott (1930); William (1931) deceased; James (1933); Richard (1936); Jerilyn McLaughlin Hess (1942); Patricia McLaughlin Goeser (1944); Janice McLaughlin Sargent (1948).

Michael farmed for twenty five years. He then moved to Harlan, Ia. and was a truck driver for Harlan Lumber & Supply. Sara was a clerk at Farner's Dept. Store for sixteen years and then at the Golden Rule Store for ten years. Mike is now deceased. Sara resides in Harlan, Ia.

Matt Mikels Family

Matt Mikels and Genevieve (Fuhs) Mikels were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, October 8, 1912. Matt was born August 7, 1888. Genevieve, the daughter of John and Eva (Reinig) Fuhs, was born April 20, 1890. There were eight children born to this union: Veronica Mikels Klein (1914); Edward (1915-1970); Raymond (1918); Alfred (1921); Eva Mikels Slaughter (1924-1976); twins, Delmar and Deloris Mikels Hicks (1927); Richard (1930).

Matt was a lifelong farmer. He passed away in 1963 and his wife died in 1966.

Cecil A. Monahan Family

Cecil Monahan and Emma Ohlinger were married on May 17, 1932 at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Cecil is the son of Leo A. and Theresa (Leenan) Monahan. He was born March 27, 1911. Emma was the daughter of Peter J. and Margaret (Leinen) Ohlinger. She was born June 9, 1910. The Cecil Monahans were the parents of two sons, Paul (1933) and Phillip J. (1934). Paul, their elder son, was ordained a priest on June 5, 1960, and is now pastor in Avoca, Iowa.

Cecil Monahan Family

Cecil was in the oil business most of his life. Emma worked at the State Bank of Portsmouth for a number of years. They moved to Harlan, Iowa in the early 1960's. Emma passed away in 1979. Cecil is retired and makes his home in Harlan.

Leo A. Monahan Family

Leo A. Monahan, son of John R. and Ellen (Foley) Monahan, was born November 17,1893. His parents were early residents of the Portsmouth community. He was married to Therese Leenan at Earling, Iowa in 1911. She was the daughter of Henry and Therese (Jenniman) Leenan, and she was born November 23, 1893. They were the parents of three children: Cecil (1911); Cyril (1915); Rose Ann Monahan Cahill (1928).

Through his lifetime, Leo farmed, operated an implement business, car dealership and an oil business. Leo and Therese moved to Harlan in 1948. Therese Monahan passed away in 1975. Leo continues to make his home in Harlan, Iowa, and commutes to Portsmouth on almost a daily basis.

Patrick R. Monahan Family

Patrick R. Monahan and his wife, Irene (Schumacher) Monahan, were residents of the Portsmouth community all of their lives. Patrick was born February 8, 1893. He was the son of Charles and Honora (Foley) Monahan. His parents came to this area from Illinois. Irene was the daughter of Jacob and Susan (Meinz) Schumacher. She was born June 16, 1889. They were the parents of two daughters, Mary Helen Monahan Ellison Dixon (1924), and Jean Monahan Lowder (1927).

Pat R. Monahan ran an implement dealership and also sold coal and oil. He was a mayor of Portsmouth and he was active in the American Legion. Irene Monahan was a school teacher. Pat passed away in 1967 and Irene passed away in 1973.

Joseph Neubauer Family

Joseph Neubauer and Susan Gondringer were married January 10, 1912 at Avon, Minnesota. Joseph, son of Michael and Augusta (Wiese) Neubauer, was born March 30, 1883.

Joe and Susan Neubauer

His parents were early settlers in Cass Township. Susan was the daughter of Nicholas and Maria (Theis) Gondringer. She was born September 27, 1888. Ten children were born to this union: Michael (1912); Nicholas (1914 - deceased); Marie Neubauer Meyers (1917); Eleanor Neubauer Ash (1918); Frances Neubauer Radke (1919); Harold (1922); Rose (1925), she is now Sister Mary Modesta; John (1927); Max (1930); Albert (1934).

The Neubauer family farmed northeast of Portsmouth for many years.

Paul John Neubauer Family

Paul John Neubauer, born June 25, 1877, was the son of Michael and Augusta (Wiese) Neubauer. His parents had come to Cass Township in 1880. On February 16, 1904, at Wilton Junction, Iowa, he was married to Clara Ann Banhagel. She was the daughter of August and Augusta (Schmidt) Banhagel, and she was born July 3, 1884. Paul and Clara Neubauer were the parents of six children: Paul, Jr. (1905-1975); Mary Anne (1906-1913); Laura Neubauer Rohloff (1910); Raymond (1914); Zeno (1917); Leona Neubauer Schneider (1920).

Paul Neubauer was a lifelong farmer and lived on his farm northwest of Portsmouth until his death in 1957. His wife passed away in 1972.

Joseph E. Ohlinger Family

Joseph E. Ohlinger and Etta Carey were married October 2, 1907 at Portsmouth, Iowa. Their parents were some of the early settlers in the community. Joseph was the son of Mathias and Anna (Herkenrath) Ohlinger. He was born July 24, 1879. Etta was the daughter of Patrick and Julia (Clark) Carey. She was born January 15, 1880. They were the parents of one son, Neil (1916).

Joe Ohlinger Family

During his lifetime, Joe was a business man, barber and did road construction. Mr. and Mrs. Ohlinger were lifelong members of St. Mary's Parish and are buried in the church cemetery.

Neil Ohlinger, their son, served in the medical administrative field in the Army from 1941-1946. He is a pharmacist and the family resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

Leo J. Ohlinger Family

Leo J. Ohlinger, son of Peter J. and Margaret (Leinen) Ohlinger, was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, September 3, 1912. He was married to Madeline Elder on July 7, 1936 at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Madeline is the daughter of the late Kearney and Mary (Honeywell) Elder. She was born April 2, 1913. The Ohlingers were the parents of four children: LeVern (1937); Judith Ohlinger Sampier (1939); Rosalee Ohlinger Roberts (1943); Joyce Ohlinger Cockson (1947).

After being in business in Portsmouth for several years, the Ohlinger family moved to Omaha, Nebraska. Leo worked for the city of Omaha for twenty five years. He retired in 1975 as chief building inspector for the city of Omaha. He died in 1978. His wife is now retired after working at Brandeis. She resides in Omaha.

Peter J. Ohlinger Family

Peter J. Ohlinger was the son of early settlers, Mathias and Anna (Herkenrath) Ohlinger. He was born June 15, 1883. On April 16, 1907, he married Margaret Leinen. She was the daughter of Mathias and Anna (Hammes) Leinen, who were also early settlers in Cass Township. Margaret was born December 4, 1882. There were seven children in the Peter J. Ohlinger family: Peter M. (1908-1978); Emma (1910-1979), married Cecil Monahan; Leo J. (1912-1978); Alfred (1915-1970); Mary Ann (1917), married Floyd Feser; John (1920); Ernest (1922).

Peter J. Ohlinger Family

Peter was a farmer and did road maintenance work. He served on the town council, was an usher at St. Mary's Church for fifty two years and was active in church and community affairs. Margaret was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and Rosary Confraternity. They were lifelong members of St. Mary's Parish. Margaret passed away in 1967. Peter died in 1974.

Peter M. Ohlinger

Peter M. Ohlinger was born July 12, 1908 at Portsmouth, Iowa. He was the son of Peter J. and Margaret (Leinen) Ohlinger. He had four brothers and two sisters: Emma Monahan; Leo J.; Alfred; Mary Ann Feser; John; Ernest.

Peter M. Ohlinger

Peter was an electrical and electronics design engineer. Much of the historical data and many of the pictures in this centennial history book were his work. He helped design the power distribution system for the Shelby County REC. He was active in photography, music, sports and writing. He had many articles on photography and electronics published in national magazines. Peter died in 1978.

Mathias Olig Family

Mathias Olig was born in Wisconsin on October 14, 1882. His parents were Peter and Anna (See) Olig. Susanna Mary Leinen was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, February 2, 1887. She was the daughter of Mathias and Anna (Hammes) Leinen. Mathias and Susanna were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, October 12, 1909. They were the parents of ten children: Anne (1910), married Elmer Hennes; Olive (1912), married Elmer Schlick; Madge (1913), married Clifford Underwood; Delores (1915), married Vernon Herkenrath; Joseph (1916); John (1918); Francis (1920); Zita (1923), married James Kohanek; Eileen (1925), married William Purnell; Ralph (1928).

Mathias Olig was a carpenter. They resided in Portsmouth for a number of years before moving to Omaha, Nebraska. Mathias died in 1961 and Susanna passed away in 1980. They are buried in Calvary Cemetery, Omaha, Nebr.

John Pauley Family

John Pauley and Mary C. Pitsch were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa on February 7, 1922. John was the son of Peter and Clara (Thielen) Pauley. Mary's parents were John and Mary (Reinig) Pitsch. Mary was born February 12, 1895. They were the parents of one daughter, Vivian Pauley Kipp (1926).

John Pauley was a farmer. His wife, Mary, was a school teacher. John died in 1929. Mary now resides with her daughter and family. John Pauley is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Anthony M. Petsche Family

Anthony Petsche was the son of John H. and Elizabeth (Ruden) Petsche. He was born July 16, 1906. Margery L. Schwery was the daughter of Gottfried and Dessa (Miller) Schwery. She was born April 18, 1912. Anthony and Margery were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa on May 14, 1935. They were the parents of seven children: Eugene (1940-1957); Mary Petsche Raid (1941); Donald (1943-1966); William (1946-1966); Neil (1948); Janet Petsche Erickson (1951); Joseph (1954-1954).

Anthony was a lifelong farmer. He bought the farm, now owned by his son, Neil, in 1943. He moved on that farm in 1945. "Tony" farmed there until his death in 1965. His wife, Margery, passed away in 1961.

Keith D. Potter Family

Keith Potter and Joan Reisz were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, December 23, 1972. Keith, son of Darwin and Geneva Jane (Luke) Potter, was born December 19, 1952. Joan is the daughter of Walter and Mary Ellen (Leinen) Reisz. The Potters are the parents of two daughters, Melissa (1976), and Tara (1979).

Keith served in the Army from 1972 to 1974. He is a carpenter. Joan is a teacher aid at Westridge School in Harlan, Iowa. The Potters lived in Portsmouth until 1980. They now reside in Harlan, Iowa.

Richard J. Powers Family

Richard J. Powers was born January 16, 1872 at Tipton, Iowa. He came to Shelby County in 1878. His parents were Richard J. and Nora Powers. He was married on September 6, 1904 at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa to Mary Margaret McAndrews. She was the daughter of Michael and Sarah (Cosgrove) McAndrews. She was born June 28, 1881. Her parents were early settlers in the community.

Richard and Mary Powers

The Powers were the parents of five children: Frances Powers Trierweiler (1905); Thomas (1907); Sara Powers McLaughlin (1910); Jerome (1911); Eugene (1913).

Richard Powers was a lifelong farmer. He farmed northwest of Portsmouth.

Frank Pursell Family

Frank Pursell and Eldene Bendon were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, November 21, 1921. Frank, son of Frank and Arminta (Champlin) Pursell, was born December 22, 1899. Eldene was the daughter of Otha and Nora (Headley) Bendon. She was born January 14, 1903. They were the parents of nine children: Kathleen Pursell Kleffman (1922); Loretta Pursell Blum (1924); Gene (1926); Mary Ann Pursell Kramer (1930); Carmella Pursell Wingert Grap (1932); Paul (1934); Elaine Pursell Koch (1936); Jane (deceased); Jerry (1941).

Frank Pursell farmed most of his life and he also ran a trucking business. He enjoyed singing, dancing, whistling and entertaining. Eldene was active in church and enjoyed family life. Frank died in 1974. Eldene passed away in 1980.

Louis Raymond Family

Louis Raymond came to Neola, Iowa, in 1891, on the "Orphan Train" from a New York Foundling Home. He was born July 31, 1887. He moved to Portsmouth, Iowa from Neola in 1909. On June 30, 1920, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, he was united in marriage to Rose Leinen. Rose is the daughter of the late Peter M. and Anna (Ohlinger) Leinen. She was born July 21,1899. They were the parents of three children: John (1921); Marian (1924), married Gene Smith; Rosa Lee (1931), married Pat Byrnes.

Louis was in the Army Engineers in 1917-1918. He worked most of his lifetime as a mechanic. He passed away in 1963. His wife, Rose, continued to make her home in Portsmouth until moving to the Westridge Apartments in Harlan, Iowa in 1980.

Robert Hope Reid Family

Robert Reid and Bertha Korth were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, March 6, 1916. Robert was the son of John A. and Julia (Jack) Reid. He was born January 20, 1890. Bertha was the daughter of Peter and Anna Rosalia (Leinen) Korth. She was born September 18, 1897. Her parents were the early settlers in Cass Township and the town of Portsmouth. Robert and Bertha Reid were the parents of nine children: Glenn Robert (1916); Olive Bertha (1917); Iona Mary (1920); LaVerta Joan (1921); Judith Ann (1923); Lyle Edward (1927); Marvin Erskine (1929); Gerald Joseph (1933); Robert Paul (1937). Lyle died in Korea in 1951.

Robert H. Reid Family

The Reid family farmed at Portsmouth for a number of years and then moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa where Mr. Reid worked in business. Robert, Bertha and Lyle are buried in Council Bluffs. Glenn is buried at Tuscon, Arizona, and Robert P. at Fort Smith, Ark.

Jacob Reinig Family

Jacob Reinig, son of John and Catherine (Stein) Reinig, and Barbara (Ludwig) Reinig, daughter of Michael and Anna Mary (Gross) Ludwig, were the parents of eleven children: Susan (married John Schmitt); Mathias; Henry; John (killed in World War I); Jacob; Rose (married Raymond Croghan); Clarence; Peter; Cecelia (married Raymond Gass); William; Zeno.

Jacob Reinig's parents came to America from Germany. Barbara Reinig was a native of Keokuk County, Iowa. After their marriage they farmed near Portsmouth, Iowa, and their family was raised in this area. They were lifelong members of St. Mary's Parish and are buried in the church cemetery.

E. J. Rosenthal Family

E. J. Rosenthal and Theodora M. Leinen were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on November 28, 1935. Eldred, son of John and Mary A. (Langenfeld) Rosenthal, was born February 21, 1911. Theodora, daughter of Michael E. and Anna (Sondag) Leinen, was born May 21, 1910. They were the parents of four children: Mary Ann Rosenthal Dunning (1936); John M., (1940); James (1942); Catherine Ryan (1950).

E.J. Rosenthal is a retired carpenter. The Rosenthal family are residents of Omaha, Nebraska.

Joseph Rosenthal Family

Joseph Rosenthal was born and raised at Westphalia, Iowa. He was the son of Joseph and Rosalia (Zimmerman) Rosenthal, and he was born in 1886. On June 25, 1929, he was married to Helen Monahan at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Helen's parents were John and Ellen (Foley) Monahan. She was born in 1902. Joseph and Helen were the parents of six children: Joseph E. (1930); Alvin (1931); James (1932); Ella Mae Rosenthal Burgess (1934); Daniel (1936); Joyce Ann Rosenthal Lowenberg (1944).

Joseph Rosenthal passed away in 1949. He is interred in St. Mary's Cemetery. His wife, Helen, and family lived in Omaha for several years and then moved to California. Helen is a retired school teacher and she makes her home in California.

John Rosenthal Family

John Rosenthal was a native of Westphalia, Iowa. He was born October 28, 1882. On May 10, 1910, he was married to Mary Agnes Langenfeld. They were the parents of five children: Eldred (1911); Bernadette (1913), married Francis Zeiser; Mary Agnes (1917), married Walter Chase; John (1926); Paul (1932).

John Rosenthal managed the Fullerton Lumber Company from 1910 to 1943. The family moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 1943. John passed away in 1944 and Mary died in 1971. During their years in Portsmouth, they were members of St. Mary's Parish and are now interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

The Rosenthal's daughter, Bernadette, and her husband, Francis Zeiser, will be remembered here as he was the depot agent in Portsmouth for a number of years.

Nick Schechinger, Sr. Family

Nick Schechinger and Kathryn (Heller) Schechinger were the parents of eight children: Urban (1917-1956); Marita (1919), married Vince Sonderman; Willard (1921); Nicholas, Jr. (1925); Damian (1923-1928); Catherine (1927), married Edward Rosenthal; Carmilita (1929-1979), married Edward Heese; Gemma (1932-1979), married Harold Sonderman.

Nick and Kate Schechinger moved to Portsmouth in 1925 to the farm owned by her parents, William and Mary Heller. This farm is several blocks west of the Catholic Church. Nick passed away in 1963. Kate continued to make her home on the farm until her death in 1968.

Ernest G. Schnack Family

Ernest G. Schnack and Bertha Kay were married at Avoca, Iowa, March 1, 1905. Ernest was the son of Otto and Marie Schnack, and he was born July 9, 1876. Bertha's parents were William and Annie (Boeck) Kay. She was born September 13, 1884. They were the parents of six children: Theresa (1907); Elmer (1909-1973); Arnold (1911-1976); Mervin (1919); Wilma (1924); Ernest, Jr. (1927).

Ernest Schnack Family

Mr. and Mrs. Schnack started farming in Shelby County after their marriage. They moved to Harrison County in 1915, and then moved to a farm in Cass Township in 1925. They resided there until moving to Harlan, Iowa in 1945. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1955.

Bertha passed away in 1959. Ernest became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home in 1962. He passed away there in 1967. They are both interred in the Harlan, Iowa cemetery.

Gottfried (Fred) Schwery Family

Gottfried (Fred) Schwery was born at Westphalia, Iowa, June 22, 1887. He was the son of Gottfried and Eva (Jemmings) Schwery. On February 26, 1906, he was married at Lincoln, Nebraska, to Dessa Beatrice Miller. Dessa was the daughter of Frank and Mary (Holcolm) Miller. She was born March 19, 1887 at Panama, Iowa. They were the parents of seven children: Helen (1906), married John Haller; Leone (1908), married Andrew Leinen; Margery (ldon Tarkington; Frederick (1920-1938); Beatrice "Betty" 1912-1961), married Anthony Petsche; Mildred (1915), (1921-1975), married Sheldon Tarkington; Frederick (1920-1938); Beatrice "Betty" (1921-1975), married Ed Zangerle; Paul (1925-1973).

Fred was a farmer. He had a dairy license to sell milk, some of which he delivered in the town of Portsmouth. He was chairman of the ASCS for a number of years. Fred and Dessa lived on a farm west of Portsmouth until their deaths. Dessa died in August of 1957, and Fred passed away in December of 1957.

James D. Slaven Family

James Slaven and Rose Ann Leinen were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, June 4, 1951. Their wedding was the first in the new St. Mary's, Our Lady of Fatima, Church. James is the son of Henry and Bertha (Hainley) Slaven. He was born in 1927. Rose Ann's parents were Michael E. and Anna (Sondag) Leinen. She was born in 1928. They are the parents of three children, Christine Ann (1953), Mary Patrice (1956) and David Henry (1961).

James served in the Army in 1946-1947. He farmed near Portsmouth for several years and did carpenter work. The Slavens moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where they now reside. Jim is a carpenter.

Ernest J. Smith Family

Ernest J. Smith, son of James and Sarah (Holly) Smith, was born October 22, 1894. On June 5, 1917, he was married to Jessie A. Slaven at Harlan, Iowa. Jessie was the daughter of John F. and Sarah (Burkett) Slaven. They were the parents of one son, Veral D. (1922), and one daughter, Darlene A. Smith Deupree (1925).

Mr. Smith is a retired farmer and lives in Persia, Iowa. Jessie Smith is deceased and is interred at Woodbine, Iowa.

Veral D. Smith Family

Veral Smith and Dorothy Galiher were married on May 2, 1942, at Omaha, Nebraska. Veral's parents were Ernest and Jessie (Slaven) Smith. He was born May 18, 1922. Dorothy is the daughter of Clair and Orpha (Crombie) Galiher. She was born August 8, 1921. They are the parents of three children, Robert (1943), Marilyn Smith Knauss (1946), and John V. (1948).

Veral served in the U.S. Army 1942-1946. He was a rural mail carrier on the Persia route for many years and is now retired. Dorothy was raised in Portsmouth, her father being section foreman for the railroad. The Smiths reside in Persia, Iowa.

Joseph P. Sondag Family

Joseph Sondag, son of Theodore and Mary (Korth) Sondag, was born May 12, 1886. Mary Hammes, daughter of Frank and Susan (Ludwig) Hammes, was born January

Joe Sondag Family

4, 1891. Joe and Mary were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, May 21, 1912. Their parents were some of the early settlers of Cass Township. They were the parents of seven children: Marie (1913); Francis (1914); Theodore (1918); Joseph J. (1921-1964); Suzette (1924), married Richard Langenfeld; Richard (1928); Barbara (1931), married Richard Heller.

Their son, Joseph J., was ordained a priest February 21, 1948. He was killed in an airplane crash in Rome in 1964. He is buried in the Atlantic, Iowa cemetery.

Joe and Mary lived on the same farm east of Portsmouth all of their married lives until retiring in 1951. They then moved into Portsmouth. Joe was a Cass Township assessor for many years, as well as a trustee of St. Mary's Parish. Mary was a teacher in the Portsmouth Public Schools in the early 1900's.

Mary passed away in 1971. Joe died in 1973. Their farm is now owned and operated by their son, Richard, and has been in the family for nearly one hundred years.

Mathias P. Sondag Family

Mathias Sondag and Anna Jacobs were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, April 24, 1904. Mathias, son of Theodore and Mary (Korth) Sondag, was born September 23, 1880. Anna was the daughter of Nicholas and Margaret (Hammes) Jacobs. She was born in 1883. The Sondags and Jacobs were early settlers in Cass Township. Matt and Anna were the parents of six children: Margaret Sondag Rosman (1905); Nicholas (1907); Leonard (1911); Dolores Sondag Megown (1913); Catherine Sondag Lach (1917); Monica Sondag Petersen (1920).

Matt Sondag Family

Mathias "Matt" farmed in Cass Township until 1935, after which, he moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa. He was custodian at Holy Family Parish in Council Bluffs for many years and was serving in this capacity at the time of his death in 1966. Anna passed away in 1962. They are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Theodore Nicholas Sondag Family

Theodore N. Sondag was born in 1890. He was the son of Theodore and Mary (Korth) Sondag. On August 12, 1919, he was married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa to Helena Amanda Peterson. She was born in 1899 at Mondamin, Iowa. Her parents were John and Catherine (Wilwerding) Peterson. She moved with her parents to Portsmouth in 1902. Theodore "Dick" and Helena were the parents of six children: William (1921); Mary Catherine (1922), she is now Sister Severina OSF; Phillip (1926-1926); John (1927); Joyce (1934); Edward (1937).

The Sondag family lived and farmed in the Portsmouth area at various times. Theodore died in 1966. Helena makes her home with her daughter, Joyce, in Des Moines, Iowa.

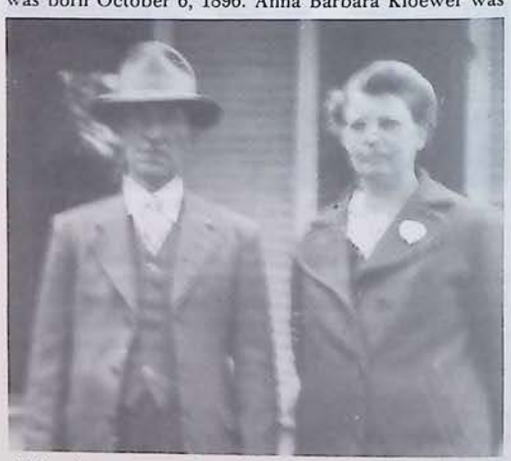
Elmer Spracklin Family

Elmer and Nellie (Bendon) Spracklin started farming in 1913. Nellie was the daughter of Simon and Anastasia (Wagner) Bendon. They had come to Shelby County in 1879. The Spracklins lived on the old Simon Bendon farm west of Portsmouth for sixteen years. Later, they moved to a farm west of Persia, farming until 1940. Elmer and Nellie were the parents of seven children: Ruth Spracklin Ditzler; Irene Spracklin Pitt; Margaret Spracklin Fisher; Frances Spracklin Elias; John; Max; Don.

The family were members of St. Mary's Parish. Elmer died in 1964 and Nellie passed away in 1966. They had lived for a number of years in Persia, Iowa, and were residing there at the time of their deaths.

Nick Springman, Sr. Family

Nick Springman, son of Carl and Eva (Stein) Springman, was born October 6, 1896. Anna Barbara Kloewer was



Nick and Anna Springman

born September 21, 1899, and she was the daughter of Frank and Mary Kloewer. Nick and Anna were married at Westphalia, Iowa in 1928. They were the parents of seven children: Mary Ann (1930), married Vincent Blum; Frances (1930), married Ray Anastasi; Theresa (1932), married Michael Blum; Helen (1934), married Ed Miller; Nicholas (1935); Joseph (1937); Donald (1939).

Nick farmed west of Portsmouth for many years. He then retired and moved into Portsmouth. He was a trustee of St. Mary's Parish for a number of years. Anna Springman passed away in 1968. Nick died in 1973.

Wesley J. Stamp Family

Wesley Stamp and Augusta Leinen were married April 16, 1942 at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Wesley was born at Persia, Iowa in 1916. He is the son of Herman and Dora (Martens) Stamp. Augusta's parents were Michael E. and Anna (Sondag) Leinen. She was born in 1918. They are the parents of six children: Wesley John, Jr. (1944); Barbara Stamp Stevens (1946); Elizabeth Stamp Zatkowsky (1948); Lori (1950); Phillip (1952); Marilyn Stamp Barker (1955).

Wesley Stamp served in the Air Force from 1942 to 1945. The Stamps lived in the Portsmouth area for a number of years after their marriage. Wesley is a painter for Omaha Housing. Augusta is an elementary school teacher in the Underwood, Iowa schools. They reside in Neola, Iowa.

John N. Stein Family

John N. Stein, son of Peter and Julia (Kleffman) Stein, was born on February 16, 1914. Rita Leinen, daughter of Michael D. and Flora (Stinn) Leinen, was born August 28, 1920. John and Rita were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, May 20, 1941. They adopted four children: Barbara Stein Wingert; Gerald; Joseph; Julia Stein Clark.

John and Rita Stein

John Stein farmed all of his life and the family lived on their farm south of Portsmouth for many years. John passed away in 1978. His wife continued to live on the farm until she passed away in 1979. Their son, Gerald, now lives on this farm.

Barbara Stein, their daughter, married Richard Wingert. They have three children, Steven, Jennifer and Scott. The Wingert family lived in the Portsmouth area until moving to Harlan, Iowa in 1980.

Mike Stein Family

Mike Stein and Isabelle Foxhoven were married at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, January 31, 1928. Mike was the son of Nick and Anna (Leuck) Stein. He was born in 1897. Isabelle was born in 1906, and her parents were William and Anna (Engel) Foxhoven of Earling. The Mike Steins were the parents of nine children: Francis (1931); Martha Stein Anastasi (1933); Ray (1934); Nick (1937); Cecelia Stein Morton (1939); Mary Stein Scheirnbeck (1940); Joe (1942); Bernard (1944); Marlene Stein Butts (1946).

Mike served in the Army during World War I. The Stein family lived on a farm northwest of Portsmouth until after Mike's death in 1958. Isabelle moved to Harlan, Iowa, where she resided until her death in 1978.

Ray Thielen Family

Ray Thielen, son of Joe and Magdalene (Kenkel) Thielen, was born at Panama, Iowa, June 27, 1906. On April 2, 1929, he was married to Adeline Klein. She was the daughter of Albert and Mary (Schomer) Klein. Adeline was born March 22, 1912. They were the parents of: Delores Thielen Dotzler (1931); Elaine Thielen Wendt (1933); Alvin (1935); Nickolas (1937); Agnes Thielen Schulte (1938); Monica Thielen Goeser (1939); Doris Thielen Olson (1943); Ray (1944) Charles (1947); Eugene (1948); Gemma Thielen Finken (1949); Shirley Thielen Schaefer (1951); Mary Thielen Engleman (1954).

Ray Thielen Family

Ray was a trucker for many years. He then was a shoe cobbler and feed salesman. Ray passed away in 1973. Adeline died in 1977.

John Tilk Family

John Tilk was born in Macomb County, Michigan, February 20, 1877. His parents, Joseph and Whilhelmina (Harder) Tilk, immigrated to the United States from Mecklenberg Germany in the early 1860's. Kathryn

Heckman was born at Koeltztown, Osage County, Missouri, October 18, 1889. Her parents were Joseph and Josephine (Hopen) Heckmann. John and Kathryn met and married in Osage County, Missouri, and in 1921, moved to Shelby County, Iowa. In 1927, they moved to the Portsmouth community to a farm owned by Michael E. Leinen, one mile east of Portsmouth. In 1934, they moved from the Portsmouth community and eventually lived at Kirkman, Iowa. They were the parents of three children: Arlene (married E.G. "Bud" Guss of Irwin, Ia.); Frances (deceased); Raymond.

John and Kathryn moved to California, then back to Missouri, where he died in 1948. Kathryn passed away in 1979. They are buried at Kirkman, Ia.

John Wehr Family

John Wehr was born at Harper, Iowa, September 7, 1878. His parents were Nickolaus and Catherine (Leinen) Wehr. Henritta Baxter was born in Michigan City, Michigan, March 16, 1881. She was the daughter of George and Margaret (Yochem) Baxter. The Baxter and Wehr families were early residents of the Portsmouth community.

John and Henritta were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Ia., May 9, 1899. They were the parents of ten children: Irene Wehr Kleffman (1900-1976); Henritta Wehr Razee (1901); Paul (1903-1906); Vincent (1905-1974); Mary Wehr Schuster (1907-1934); Veronica Wehr White (1909); Claryce Wehr Sellars (1911); Ambrose (1914); John (1920-1962); Viola Wehr Harvey (1922).

John Wehr was drayman for many years. He was a self-made veterinarian, a dairyman, a jack-of-all trades.

John passed away in 1958. The Wehrs were longtime members of St. Mary's Parish. Henritta died in 1967.

Peter Wehr Family

Peter Wehr and Elizabeth Clark were married February 12, 1923. Peter, son of Nickolaus and Catherine (Leinen) Wehr, was born July 22, 1887. Elizabeth was born December 28, 1894. They farmed near Tennant and were members of St. Mary's Parish, Portsmouth, Iowa. Peter was also a meat cutter in Portsmouth. They were the parents of seven children: Doris Wehr Orr (1925); Joseph (1928); Mary Wehr Patten (1929); Theresa Wehr Stracke (1931); Don (1933); Darlene Wehr Wieser (1935); Maxine Wehr Brue (1937). All of these children were born during the years the family belonged to St. Mary's Parish.

The Wehr family moved to Westphalia, Iowa. Peter died in 1947, and his wife passed away in 1977. They are buried at Westphalia, Iowa.

Leo White Family

Leo Cornelius White was born December 6, 1909. He was the son of Patrick and Ann (Mungon) White. He was married to Veronica Wehr, November 28, 1928. Veronica's parents were John and Henritta (Baxter) Wehr. She was born December 19, 1909. Five children were born to this union: Donna White Wendt (1931); Patricia (1933); Neil (1935); Mary Ann (1938); Dennis (1939).

All of the White children attended St. Mary's School. The family moved to Omaha, Nebraska in the early 1950's. Leo is now deceased. His wife, Veronica, resides near Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Frank Wiese Family

Frank Wiese, son of Julius and Julia (Nowatzke) Wiese, was born in 1888. He was married at Portsmouth, Iowa, in 1912, to Margaret Haferbier. Her parents were Henry and Marie (Bramier) Haferbier. She was born in 1893. Frank Wiese's parents were early settlers in Cass Township.

Frank and Margaret Wiese

They were the parents of two children; Bernice (married Herbert Gubbels, after his death, later married Walter Mordhorst); and Francis.

Frank Wiese was a farmer and the family lived on a farm two miles south of Portsmouth until moving to Harlan, Iowa, in 1953. Frank Wiese passed away in 1973. He is buried at Harlan, Iowa. Mrs. Wiese continues to make her home in Harlan, Iowa.

Clyde A. Williams Family

Clyde williams was born in Hiawatha, Kansas, February 13, 1890. He came with his parents, David and Mary L. (Simmonds) Williams, to the Portsmouth vicinity in 1893. He was married at Omaha, Nebraska, June 3, 1920, to Clementine Plambeck. She was born March 17, 1896. Her parents were William and Clementine (Emkie) Plambeck. There are three children in the Clyde Williams family: Mae (1922), married Al Mikels; Russell (1925); Lavern (1928).

Clyde was a lifelong farmer. He farmed northwest of Portsmouth until he retired and moved into Portsmouth in December of 1964. He passed away in 1974. Clementine passed away in 1975. They are buried in the Cass Township Cemetery.

Leo Wingert Family

Leo Wingert, son of Henry and Martha (Reinig) Wingert, was born March 31, 1925. On October 4, 1949, he was united in marriage to Carmella Pursell at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth. Carmella's parents were Frank and Eldene (Bendon) Pursell. She was born August 6, 1932. They were the parents of five children: Alan (1950); Barry (1951); Wayne (1954); Peggy (1957); Paul (1960).

Leo was born and raised in the Panama, Iowa area. The family farmed until 1955. They then moved to Arizona. They returned to live at Portsmouth in 1964. Leo continued to farm until his death in 1975.

Leo Wingert Family

Joseph H. Yunck Family

Joseph Yunck came to Portsmouth in 1910 to be cashier at the State Bank in Portsmouth. He remained in that position until he retired in 1936.

Joe Yunck was born at Mandan, North Dakota, August 26, 1878. He was the son of Harry and Philomena Yunck. He was married in 1906 to Margaret Cavanaugh of Lohrsville, Iowa. She was born in 1880. There were four children born to this union: Willis, Marita, Henry and Margaret (married F. S. Manly).

After his retirement from the bank, the Yuncks moved to Sioux City, Iowa to make their home. Joe passed away in 1951. Margaret died in 1959. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Frank Zangerle Family

Frank Zangerle came to America in 1902. He was born August 2, 1870. Crescentia Schultz was born November 24, 1884. She came to America in 1904. Frank and Crescentia (Schultz) Zangerle were the parents of eleven children: Ann Zangerle Wiegand (1908); Bertha Zangerle Herbst (1909); John (1911); Frank (1915); Frances (1913); William (1917); Clarence (1919); Edward (1921); twins, Pat Zangerle Stein and Viola Zangerle Skalla (1924); Ralph (1926). The deceased members of this family besides Mr. and Mrs. Zangerle are, John, Frank, Frances, William, Edward and Ralph. John was killed in action in 1945 during World War II.

The Zangerles farmed west of Panama for many years. They retired and moved to Portsmouth in 1942. They resided there until their deaths.

Henry Zimmerman Family

Henry Zimmerman was born at Westphalia, Iowa, March 9, 1891. He was the son of Joseph and Barbara Zimmerman. He was married at Panama, Iowa, September 1, 1931, to Cecelia Klein Thielen. Cecelia, born September 14, 1907, at Portsmouth, Iowa, was the daughter of Albert and Mary Klein. Cecelia's first husband, John Thielen, passed away. They had a family of three children, Velma Thielen Ring (1926), John (1927), and Harold (1930). Henry and Cecelia were the parents of six children: Eldred (1932); Ella Mae Zimmerman Schaben (1933); Richard (1936); Neil; Janice Zimmerman Marker (1941); Carolyn Zimmerman Mortensen (1945).

The Zimmermans resided in Portsmouth after their marriage. Henry was an interior decorator. Cecelia operated the Zimmerman Cafe. She passed away in 1970. Henry continued to live in their home until his death in 1971.

Hubert Zimmerman Family

Hubert Zimmerman was a native of Germany. He was married to Cecelia Gessert Andersen at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, June 22, 1950. Cecilia was born at Oskosh, Wisconsin in 1911. She is the daughter of the late Frank and Catherine (Michalski) Gessert. Cecelia's first husband, William Andersen, passed away in 1939. Wm. and Cecelia Andersen were the parents of four children: Geraldine (1932), married Charles Koch; Gerald (1934); LaVerne (1937); William (1939).

Hubert and Cecelia Zimmerman are the parents of one son, Roger (1952). Hubert is an electrician and worked in Portsmouth and the surrounding area for many years before moving to Omaha, Nebraska.

Century Farms

In 1976 as a Bicentennial project, the Agriculture Department of the State of Iowa began recognizing farms that had been in the ownership of one family for 100 years as Century Farms. The requirements include that the farm must contain at least 40 acres and that the present owner must be related to a person who owned the land 100 years ago.

Century Farms in the Portsmouth area include the farms owned by Anthony and Mildred Reinig; Neva (Mrs. Herb) Lawrence; and Jessie Snow, granddaughter of Clara Gillett.

Original Mathias Leinen House - 1880's

Same house as it looks today - 1982

The farm owned by the Anthony Reinigs, located two miles east of Portsmouth, was originally purchased by Mathias Leinen, Mrs. Reinig's grandfather, in 1875. Mr. Leinen's son, Albert, was the second family member to own the farm and he in turn sold it to his daughter and son-in-law. Members of the Leinen family have lived on this land continuously for over a hundred years.

The Century Farm owned by Mrs. Herb Lawrence is unimproved and located north of Portsmouth. The present renter is Jack Slaven. This land was purchased by James Lawrence from the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Company in 1880. It has been owned, subsequently, by his brother, Samuel, and Samuel's son, J. Herbert Lawrence. Herb's widow, Neva, a resident of Bedford, Iowa, is the present owner.

The third Century Farm is owned by Jessie Snow of Aurora, Colorado, and is farmed by Marcus Bruck. It is unimproved and is located in Harrison County, three miles west of Portsmouth. This land was purchased from the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad in 1881 by Issac Henry Budd. After the death of Mr. Budd, the land was inherited by his niece, Clara Budd Gillett. Following her death in 1949, the land has been owned by her descendants, Jessie Gillett Mitchell and Jessie Mitchell Snow, who represents the fourth generation of the family to own this farm.

Farms that will qualify for this distinction between 1984 and 1986 include those presently owned by Zeno Leinen, Elmer Johansen, and Ralph Kruger.

John and Pete Lefeber

Steve Lefeber with his Whippet - 1920

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wiese

Jacob and Elizabeth Skalla with sons Lavere, Al and Bob.

Centennial Year Families

St. Mary's Choir and part of crowd at St. Mary's Cemetery for Memorial Day Services - 1981.

Parish Gathering for Father Vince's birthday party - 1981.

Raymond Anastasi Family

Ray Anastasi grew up at Westphalia, Iowa. He was born there in 1929, and he is the son of Carl and Clara (Schiltz) Anastasi. On September 14, 1948 at Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Frances Springman. Her parents were Nick and Anna (Kloewer) Springman. She was born in 1930. Five children were born to this union: Carolyn, 1949; Janice, 1950; Duane, 1952; Patricia, 1956; Shirley, 1960.

Ray is an inspector for the Rural Water, Southwest Iowa District. Frances is employed at the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan, Iowa. They live Portsmouth.

William C. Boeck Family

William (Bill) Boeck, eldest son of Hugo and Juanita (Ramsey) Boeck was born March 10, 1925. The Hugo Boeck family moved to Shelby County in 1937 and in 1943 purchased the family farm which is one mile west of Tennant. On June 4, 1944 Bill married Betty Jean Olsen. Betty was born February 7, 1926. Her parents were the late Nels and Anna (Laugesen) Olsen. Nels and Anna were immigrants from Denmark and farmed in Shelby County from the turn of the century. Bill and Betty Boeck have five children: Terry, 1945; James, 1947; Steven, 1949; Julie Ann Boeck (Bob) Robinson, 1953; Brian, 1957.

Bill Boeck Family

Bill farmed in Lincoln and Cass Township until 1976 when he gave up farming for health reasons. He is now manager of Midwest Fertilizer at Persia, Iowa. They live on the family farm which they purchased in 1972 from Bill's parents.

Agriculture, youth education and church have been Bill and Betty's life together. They have been 4-H leaders. They have both held various church offices in the past, and at present, hold offices at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, Ia.

Mel Book Family

Mel Book and Margaret Heese were married January 23, 1946 at Earling, Iowa. Mel was born at Westphalia, Iowa and is the son of the late Joe and Josephine (Klein) Book. Margaret is the daughter of the late Frank and Stella (Weiland) Heese. She was born at Earling, Iowa. The Books moved to a farm two miles north and two miles west of Portsmouth in 1949 with their son, Gary, who was then two years old. Mel and Margaret are the parents of seven sons and two daughters: Gary, Terry, Denny, Joe, Randy, Bob, Jim, Mary Jo and Becky. Mary Jo and Becky attend school at Woodbine, Iowa. Randy, Bob and Jim are single and they work at the Pork Plant in Harlan, Iowa.

Mel is a member of the Centennial Committee. Mel and his family reside at and farm the same farm they moved to in 1949.

Terry Book Family

Terry Book served in the Army from 1969 to 1971. On August 12, 1977 he was married to Joyce Leinen at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Ia. Terry is the son of Mel and Margaret (Heese) Book and he was born January 16, 1950. Joyce's parents are Mark and Rita (Kloewer) Leinen. She was born November 16, 1950. They are the parents of two daughters, Dana Jean, 1974 and Kimberly Ann, 1980.

The Books farm northwest of Portsmouth. Joyce works as a secretary in Omaha, Nebraska. Terry has been very active in town team baseball over the years.

Anna Margaret Bruck

John and Margaret (Schmitz) Bruck were the parents of one daughter, Anna Margaret. She was born on April 17, 1905. Anna made her home with her parents and after the death of her mother continued to care for her father until his death in 1956. Anna is now retired and continues to live in the family home in Portsmouth.

Bill Bruck Family

William Anthony Bruck and Darlene Assmann were married at Panama, Iowa on April 8, 1967. Bill's parents, Mark and Helen (Graf) Bruck, live at Portsmouth, Iowa. Bill was born November 13, 1945. Norbert and Eunice (Miller) Assmann are Darlene's parents and they live at Panama, Iowa. Darlene was born May 20, 1947.

The Bill Brucks have three children; Michelle, 1968; Todd, 1969; and their younger son, William Anthony, Jr., born June 18, 1981.

Bill served in the National Guard. He is a farmer and the family lives east of Portsmouth.

Marcus Bruck Family

Marcus John Bruck was born June 22, 1923. He is the son of the late William and Clara (Windeshausen) Bruck. On August 26, 1944 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Norfolk, Virginia, he was married to Helen Magdeline Graf. She was born September 3, 1923. Mark served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1945. Mark and Helen are the parents of six children: William (Bill), 1945; Janice Bruck Lasher, 1948; Mary Bruck Gessert, 1953; Bruce, 1955; Craig, 1960 and Kevin, 1966. Kevin attends school at Woodbine, Iowa. Craig works at Western Iowa Pork and Bruce farms for himself west of Portsmouth.

Mark has been a lifelong farmer and the family lives on a farm northwest of Portsmouth.

Michael Bruck Family

Michael Bruck and Ursula Theresa Leinen were married at Portsmouth, Iowa on January 12, 1954. Mike's parents were the late William and Clara (Windeshausen) Bruck. He was born July 11, 1929. Ursula is the daughter of Zeno and Viola M. (Schwery) Leinen. She was born March 9, 1932. The Bruck children are: Theresa Bruck Corrin, 1954; James, 1955; Debra Ann Bruck Leinen, 1956; John, 1957; Francis, 1958-1958; Sharon Bruck Schmitz, 1959; Lorraine Ann, 1961-1978; Joseph, 1963; Jeffery, 1964; Jay, 1966; Jacqueline, 1968; Christie Lea, 1970. The four youngest children attend the Harlan schools.

Mike Bruck Family

Mike served in the U.S. Navy. The family recently moved back to Portsmouth from the Harlan area. Mike works at G. & R. Grain Co. in Portsmouth.

Nick A. Bruck Family

Nick A. Bruck and Alma Arkfeld were married at St. Patrick's Church, Honolulu, Hawaii on December 31, 1940. Nick was serving in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Hawaii at that time. He served in the submarine division and was in the service from 1936 to 1946. Nick is the son of the late William and Clara (Windeshausen) Bruck. He was

Nick Bruck Family

born in 1916. He came to the Portsmouth area from Earling, Iowa in 1919. Alma is a native of Panama, Iowa and is the daughter of the late Ben and Katherine (Kenkel) Arkfeld. She was born in 1919.

Nick and Alma have five sons and four daughters: Nick, Jr., 1942; Ronald, 1946; Robert, 1948; Joyce Bruck Larsen, 1949; Richard, 1951; Joan Bruck Ingram, 1952; Jolene Bruck Roecker, 1955; Janet, 1958; Randy, 1960. Their four oldest sons have all served in the U.S. Navy.

The Brucks moved to a farm south of Portsmouth in 1946. Nick is still engaged in farming and he and Alma reside on the farm.

Raymond Bruck Family

Leonard and Alice (Buschkamp) Bruck are Raymond's parents. Raymond was born September 8, 1953. On September 3, 1977 he was married to Theresa Nowatzke. Theresa is the daughter of Raymond and Madonna (Paollizzi) Nowatzke of Panama, Iowa. She was born January 23, 1958. The Raymond Brucks have two daughters, Becky, 1978 and Janet, 1980.

Raymond Bruck was born and raised on the farm and is now engaged in farming.

Steve Buck Family

Steve Buck, son of Roscoe and Loretta (Freese) Buck, was born in 1953. On February 22, 1975, he was married to Susan Wendt at Portsmouth, Iowa. Susan is the daughter of Jack and Elaine (Thielen) Wendt. She was born in 1953. They are the parents of four children: Chris, 1975; Cory, 1976; Jackie Sue, 1978; Craig, 1980.

Steve is employed at Western Iowa Pork at Harlan, Iowa. The family recently moved from Portsmouth to a home in Tennant, Iowa.

Bill Buckley Family

Bill Buckley and Donna Gau were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, June 28, 1949. Bill is a native of Panama, Iowa and is the son of Tim and Anne (Schulte) Buckley. He was born in 1926. Donna's parents are Dick and Hazel (Bendon) Gau. She was born in 1927. Bill served in the Army from 1944 to 1946. The Buckleys are the parents of three children; Duane, 1951; Diane, 1957; and Denise, 1962.

Bill has been a lifelong farmer and the family resides on a farm south of Portsmouth. Donna is a remedial reading teacher at St. Mary's Regional School at Panama, Iowa.

Edwin Buman Family

On April 2, 1934, at St. Patrick's Church, Monona, Iowa, Edwin J. Buman and Lorena M. Ryan were united in marriage. Lorena, born in 1908, is the daughter of the late Edward and Teresa (Humphrey) Ryan. Edwin was the son of John and Helen (Rosman) Buman. He was born October 7, 1908. They were the parents of one son and three daughters; Edwin J., Jr., 1937; Mary Margaret Buman McCarthy, 1940; Rita Anne, 1944 (deceased); Teresa Buman Smit, 1946.

Edwin was a lifelong farmer and farmed in Lincoln Township until his death in 1968.

Edwin Buman, Jr. Family

Edwin Buman, born in 1937, is the son of Edwin and Lorena (Ryan) Buman. His wife, Linda, is the daughter of Ambrose and Irma (Coenen) Muenchrath. She is a native of Earling, Iowa and she was born in 1942. They were married at Earling, Iowa on August 13, 1966. They have three daughters; Sarah, 1969; Gwendolyn, 1971; Anne Marie, 1975.

Edwin farms and is also a teacher. Linda is a teacher also. They reside on the Buman home place in Lincoln Township. They are members of St. Mary's Parish.

James Lee Buman Family

The Jim Bumans farm east of Portsmouth. James Buman and Dianne Campbell were married at the United Methodist Church in Irwin, Iowa, on March 18, 1978. Dianne, a native of Irwin, Iowa, is the daughter of Vernon and Nora (Holloway) Campbell. She was born April 28, 1959. Jim is the son of Ralph and Catherine (Reinig) Buman. He was born July 10, 1957. They have one daughter, Keri Marie, born February 23, 1980.

John Buman II Family

John Buman II, son of Kenneth and Leona (Wageman) Buman, was born and raised on a farm southeast of Portsmouth. After finishing college, he joined the Army for two years. On August 16, 1969, he was married to Myra Thraen of Earling, Iowa. Myra is the daughter of Laurence and Lavina (Scheuring) Thraen of Earling. John and Myra have three children; Jackie, Jeannie and Jerry.

John is engaged in farming, and the family resides on the farm in Lincoln Township. Myra has a degree in elementary education and was a school teacher for several years.

Joseph Buman Family

Joseph John Buman, son of George and Clara (Sizer) Buman was born September 25, 1937. On August 7, 1965, at the Holy Family Church, Security, Colorado, he was united in marriage to Bonnie Lea Brada. Bonnie is a native of Colorado and is the daughter of Fabian and Dolores (Coven) Brada. She was born June 7, 1942. Since their marriage, they have been farming southeast of Portsmouth.

Joe and Bonnie Buman are the parents of five children: Anthony (Tony), 1967; Daniel, 1969; Barbara, 1970; Debra, 1973 and Jeffrey, 1974.

The Buman family are members of St. Mary's Parish and Joe is presently serving as president of the Parish Council.

Kenneth J. Buman Family

Kenneth J. Buman and Leona B. Wageman were married at St. Peter's Church, Defiance, Iowa on June 22, 1942. Kenneth, born July 11, 1922, is the son of the late John and Helen (Rosman) Buman. They were lifelong farmers in the Lincoln Township area. Leona is the daughter of Edward and Magdalena (Klein) Wageman of Defiance, Iowa. She was born December 11, 1920. They are the parents of one son and one daughter; John Buman II, 1943; and Sandra Buman Gearhart, 1944.

Kenneth is in the agriculture-distributing business. They reside on the late John Buman farm in Lincoln Township. They have been members of St. Mary's Parish all of their married lives.

Ralph G. Buman Family

Ralph Buman was born April 10, 1928. He was the son of the late George and Clara (Sizer) Buman. They were lifelong farmers in Lincoln Township. On September 6, 1954, at St. Francis Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa, he was married to Catherine Reinig. Her parents are August and Mary (Kenkel) Reinig. She was born March 13, 1931 and was raised in the Panama and Portsmouth areas. They were the parents of six children: Ann Buman Swirzcek, 1955; Jim, 1957; Sharon, 1959; Paul, 1962; Larry, 1965; Susan, 1968.

Ralph served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953. He farmed southeast of Portsmouth until his death in 1977. His family continues to reside on the farm.

Glenn and Terry Carstens

Glenn and Terry Carstens are the sons of Henry and Elise (Keopke) Carstens. Glenn was born November 22, 1945. He served in the Air Force from 1965 to 1968. Terry was born June 9, 1949.

The Carstens came to Portsmouth from Wayne, Nebraska in 1978. They own and operate the Portsmouth Locker.

Gerald L. Christensen Family

Gerald Christensen and Rita Ann Ditzler were married in Bremerton, Washington on May 15, 1961. Gerald is the son of Hans and Ida (Kettler) Christensen. He was born May 25, 1938. Rita's parents were the late Louie and Ruth (Spracklin) Ditzler. She was born November 9, 1942. The Christensens have two sons, Michael, 1962 and Scott, 1964.

Gerald Christensen Family

Gerald and Rita own and operate Club 191 which opened in December of 1978. They moved into town in 1979.

Jacob Daeges Family

Jacob Daeges was born in Prussia on May 4, 1876. He was the son of Michael and Johannah Daeges. He came with his parents to America when he was eight years old. They settled in Shelby County and Jacob worked on his father's farm until he grew older. There were eleven children in the Michael Daeges family. All are now deceased.

Jacob and Mary Mathilda Daeges

Jacob married Mary Mathilda Thomas on May 20, 1902 at Stanberry, Missouri. Her parents, William and Elizabeth Thomas, had lived in Shelby County and then moved to Stanberry, Missouri. After their marriage, Jacob and Mary lived in Missouri until 1907. They then moved to a farm in Cass Township and farmed for five years. Jacob opened a garage in Portsmouth and sold cars. After a number of years, he started farming again and did so until his death in 1941.

Jacob and Mary Mathilda were the parents of thirteen children: William, 1903 (married Rose Stein); Helena, 1905 (married John P. Stein); Louis, 1907; Frances, 1909 (married Arnold Schartz); Elizabeth, 1911 (married Alfred Brackett); Marie, 1912 (married Clayton Anderson); Anna, 1916 (married Lawrence Weihs); Bernadine, 1917 (married James Karls, after his death, she married Maxwell Hughes); Pauline, 1919 (married Henry Sachs); Michael, 1921; Jacob Patrick, 1923; Loretta, 1925 (married Fred Grote); Henry (died when he was four years old).

Mary Mathilda Daeges continued to live on the farm east of Portsmouth for some years after her husband's death. She resides in her home in Portsmouth. She is now the oldest resident of Portsmouth at 98 years of age.

Gerald Eyer Family

Gerald Eyer and his wife, Adeline, moved to Portsmouth in 1980 from Charter Oak, Iowa. They are retired. Gerald Eyer, son of Sam and Mina (Bruhn) Eyer, was born in

Gerald and Adeline Eyer

1915. Adeline is the daughter of William and Elma (Suhr) Hingst. She was born March 3, 1919. They were married at Charter Oak, Iowa on April 10, 1938. The Eyers have two daughters, Geraldine Joan, 1939 and Carol Marie, 1941.

Floyd Feser Family

Floyd Feser and Mary Ann Ohlinger were married June 1, 1946 at St. Cecelia's Cathedral, Omaha, Nebraska. Floyd, born in 1917, is the son of William J. and Anna (Greiner) Feser. Mary Ann's parents were the late Peter J. and Margaret (Leinen) Ohlinger. She was born in 1917. They are the parents of two sons and two daughters: Allen, 1947; Neil, 1948; Carole Feser Uknes, 1951; Brenda Feser Scieszinski, 1956.

Floyd has been associated with agriculture all of his life. Mary Ann is the secretary for St. Mary's Parish.

Ronald Flaharty Family

Ronald Flaharty, son of Elmer and Virginia (McIntosh) Flaharty, of Persia, Iowa, was born September 14, 1951.

Ron Flaherty Family

On September 22, 1973, he was married at Portsmouth, Iowa, to Mary Lu Leinen. Her parents are Mark and Rita (Kloewer) Leinen. She was born March 25, 1954. They are the parents of three children, Valerie Jean, 1974, Jamie Lea, 1977 and Shawn Kelly, 1979.

Ron served in the Army from 1970 to 1974 and is now in the National Guard. He is a mechanic for Orv Rocker Diesel. Mary Lu is an insurance clerk for Empire Insurance Company in Omaha, Nebraska. They live in Persia, Iowa, and are members of St. Mary's Parish.

John J. Fuhs Family

John Fuhs was the son of early settlers, John and Eva (Reinig) Fuhs. He was born September 3, 1896. On February 26, 1924, at Earling, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Kunigunda Foxhoven. Her parents were William and Anna (Engel) Foxhoven of Earling. She was born November 7, 1900. This union was blessed with eight children: William, 1926; Bernadine Fuhs Kenkel, 1928; Mildred Fuhs Schaben Goeser, 1929; Mary Ann Fuhs Kramer, 1931; Rita Fuhs Schaben, 1933; Robert, 1936; Patricia Fuhs Smith, 1938; and Joe, 1943.

John Fuhs Family

John J. Fuhs served in the Army during World War I. He was a lifelong farmer and the family continued to live on the farm after his death in 1950. Mrs. Fuhs is now retired. She moved into Portsmouth where she now resides.

William Fuhs Family

William (Bill) Fuhs and Delores Kramer were married at St. Peter's Church, Defiance, Iowa on May 4, 1953.

Wm. Fuhs Family

William's parents are John J. and Kunigunda (Foxhoven) Fuhs. He was born July 16, 1926. Delores is the daughter of Frank and Cecilia (Schechinger) Kramer. She was born at Defiance, Iowa, on December 20, 1930. They are the parents of John, 1954; Janet Fuhs Kohles, 1955; Randall, 1957; Daniel, 1958; Carol, 1959; Sandra, 1960-1960; Richard, 1961; Eugene, 1962; Donald, 1963; Cheryl, 1966; Joan, 1970; Jill, 1972.

Bill farms and the family lives on the Fuhs home place northwest of Portsmouth. The family enjoys sports and Bill has served as a little league baseball coach.

Frank Funk Family

Frank and Judy Funk own and operate the Town Cupboard Grocery Store in Portsmouth, Iowa. Frank also farms northeast of town. Frank Funk, son of Lawrence and Barbara (Windeshausen) Funk, was born November 5, 1940. He was married to Judy Weihs at Blair, Nebraska, on August 11, 1970. She is the daughter of Lawrence and Ann (Daeges) Weihs. She was born March 23, 1945. The Funks have three daughters and one son: Susan, 1964; Kelly, 1967; Kathi, 1971; Kyle, 1974.

The Funks have both served on the town council. Judy has been the softball coach for the girls grade school softball teams for several years.

Andrew (Dick) Gau Family

Andrew Gau and Hazel Bendon were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, on December 30, 1924. Andrew, son of the late Arnold and Anna (Leinen) Gau, was born November 11, 1902. Hazel was born September 23, 1901. Her parents were Amos and Hattie (O'Banion) Bendon. They are the parents of five children: Donna Gau Buckley, 1927; Dorothy Gau Wolf, 1929; Philip, 1931; Dean, 1935; Lois Gau Rosenow, 1937.

Dick was a lifelong farmer until his retirement. He and his wife still reside on the farm. He also did carpenter work. He has been an usher at St. Mary's Church for many years.

Philip Gau Family

Philip Gau was born in 1931 at Portsmouth, Iowa. He is the son of Andrew (Dick) and Hazel (Bendon) Gau. On October 24, 1956, he was united in marriage to Colleen Arkfeld. Her parents are Vince and Anna Marie (Schmitz) Arkfeld. Colleen was born in 1938. Phil and Connie have three sons and three daughters: Ron, 1957; Rick, 1958; Dave, 1960; Janel Gau Royer, 1961; Julie, 1962; Rachele, 1964.

Phil served in the Army during the Korean Conflict from 1952 to 1954. He farms northwest of Portsmouth and also works at Leinen Hardware. Connie works at Charter Data at Harlan, Iowa.

Ronald Gau

Ron Gau and Kathleen Finerty were married at St. Patrick's Church, Neola, Iowa, on August 2, 1980. Ron's parents are Phil and Colleen (Arkfeld) Gau. He was born November 19, 1957. Kathy was born July 28, 1959, and is the daughter of John and JoAnn (Ingwersen) Finerty of Persia, Iowa.

Ron is a mechanic at Western Engineering in Harlan, Iowa and Kathy has just completed her licensed practical nurses training at Iowa Western Community College.

David Gibson Family

David Gibson, son of former Portsmouth area residents Don and Norma (Mikesell) Gibson, was born June 11, 1936. On November 27, 1965, at Tabor, Iowa, he was married to Jill Kline. Jill was born December 20, 1939. She is the daughter of Dale and Lucile (Linsey) Kline. They are the parents of two children; Julia, 1967 and Jim, 1970.

David served in the Army from 1960 to 1962. He is a farmer and he and his family live on their farm southeast of Portsmouth, Iowa.

Bernard P. Goetzinger

Bernard (Ben) Goetzinger was born at Templeton, Iowa March 11, 1906. He is the son of the late Nickolas and Elizabeth (Friedman) Goetzinger. On July 1, 1930, he was united in marriage to Melania Leinen at Sacred Heart Church, Templeton, Iowa. Melania's parents were early settlers, Peter M. and Anna (Ohlinger) Leinen. She was born December 30, 1911.

Ben and Melania Goetzinger

Ben worked on the railroad, then owned and operated an oil station and also a cafe in Templeton. They moved to Omaha in 1942. He worked for Gate City Steel and after retiring in 1969 moved to Portsmouth. Melania passed away in 1977. After her death, Ben sold his house and moved into the Senior Citizen Apartments where he now resides.

Donovan Grap Family

Donovan Grap and Carmella Pursell Wingert were married at Portsmouth, Iowa on August 27, 1977. Donovan, son of Charles and Viola (McHenry) Grap, is from Persia, Iowa. He was born November 8, 1927. Carmella is the daughter of Frank and Eldene (Bendon) Pursell. She was born August 6, 1932. Donovan's children are Cheryl (1949); Gayle (1951); Rodney (1953); Lee Ann (1954). Carmella's children are Alan Wingert (1950); Barry Wingert (1951);

Donovan and Carmella Grap

Wayne Wingert (1954); Peggy Wingert (1957); Paul Wingert (1960).

Donovan is a farmer and he and his wife reside on their farm northwest of Portsmouth. His hobbies are wild animals, woodworking, and dancing.

Alfred J. Greiner

Alfred J. Greiner was born December 8, 1917. His parents were the late Nicholas and Mary (Bauer) Greiner. He

Alfred Greiner

served in the U. S. Army from 1942 to 1945. Alfred is employed in construction work. He has been a long time member of St. Mary's Parish and lives in the Persia area.

Matt H. Gross Family

Matt H. Gross is a native of Earling, Iowa. He is the son of the late Frank and Bertha (Rushenberg) Gross, and was born February 16, 1909. On June 17, 1937, at Sacred Heart Church in Manilla, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Margaret F. Smith. Margaret's parents were John and Sarah (McAndrews) Smith. She was from Manilla, Iowa, and she was born February 26, 1914. To this union two sons were born; Raphael, 1938 (deceased) and David, 1943.

Matt and Margaret moved to the Portsmouth area from Earling in 1938. Matt has been a lifelong farmer, and they reside northeast of Portsmouth.

James Grote Family

James Grote was born at Neola, Iowa on April 8, 1925. His parents are William and Julia (Lustgraaf) Grote. On April 16, 1947, at Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Marie Rau. Marie was born at Westphalia, Iowa, July 27, 1926. She is the daughter of Gilbert and Lidwina (Eisterhold) Rau. Jim and Marie Grote have nine children: Lloyd, 1948; Linda Grote Anderson, 1949; Michael, 1950; Gloria Grote Randal, 1952; Kathy Grote Sporrer, 1953; Leona Grote Bladt, 1955; Geralyn, 1960 and twins, Marita and Maxine, 1962.

Jim served in the Army from 1945 to 1946. He has been a farmer all his life and the family resides on a farm northeast of Portsmouth, which is the William Grote home place.

Their son, Lloyd served in the Marines from 1966 to 1970 which included two tours of duty in Viet Nam. Their son, Mike, was in the Army in 1970-71.

Jim is the adjutant of the American Legion Post for the 1981-82 term.

Michael F. Grote Family

Michael Grote and Mary Miles were married at Portsmouth, Iowa on April 22, 1972. Michael was born in 1950, and he is the son of James and Marie (Rau) Grote. Mary is the daughter of Dean and Ethel (Von Tersch) Miles and she is from Harlan, Iowa. Mary was born in 1953. They are the parents of three children; Todd, 1974; Adam, 1976 and Emily, 1979.

Mike served in the Army in 1970-71. The Grote family lives in Portsmouth. Mike works at Western Iowa Pork in Harlan, Iowa and Mary is an LPN at the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan.

Robert W. Grote

Robert W. Grote was born at Neola, Iowa on July 31, 1922. His parents, William and Julia (Lustgraaf) Grote, moved to the Portsmouth area in 1935. He has five brothers and one sister; Fred, Jim, Tom, Raphael, Leroy and Hilary Mae Gaul.

Robert was an Army Military Policeman in Berlin, Germany in 1945-46. He was wounded in a flash fire in Berlin in 1946. He was released from the Percy Jones Army General Hospital, Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1947. He farmed from 1948 to 1956. He has been the postmaster at Portsmouth since that time. He is a director of the State

Robert Grote

Bank of Portsmouth, co-chairman of Shelby County Historical Society and is the chairman of the Portsmouth Centennial Committee.

Thomas Grote Family

Thomas Grote moved with his parents to Portsmouth in 1935. He was born at Neola, Iowa, on March 17, 1927. He is the son of William and Julia (Lustgraaf) Grote. On January 30, 1950, at St. Peter's Church in Defiance, Iowa, he was married to Theresa Kramer. She was born September 2, 1928. Her parents were Frank and Cecelia (Schechinger) Kramer of Defiance, Iowa. The Grotes' children are Sharon Grote Gaul, 1950; Mary Lou Grote Arkfeld, 1952; Joseph, 1953; Julia Grote Theulen, 1954; Ruth Grote Perry, 1955; Donna, 1956; Rita Grote Parsons, 1958; Robert, 1960; Laura

Thomas Grote Family

Grote Sell, 1962; John, 1966 and Lisa, 1969. Joe is in the U.S. Army and Robert is in the U.S. Navy. John and Lisa attend the Harlan Schools.

Tom Grote served in the Navy in 1945-46. He is now plant manager of Shelby County Rural Water District. The family lives on their farm northeast of Portsmouth.

William F. Grote Family

William F. Grote and Julia A. Lustgraaf were married at Neola, Iowa, on February 10, 1920. William is the son of the late Henry B. and Caroline (Ostdiek) Grote. Julia's parents were John and Louise (Staudt Miller) Lustgraaf. William was born January 19, 1898 at Neola. Julia was also born at Neola on October 24, 1899. They are the parents of six sons and one daughter: Fredrick, 1921; Robert, 1922; James, 1925; Thomas, 1927; Raphael, 1928; Leroy, 1929; Hilary Mae Grote Gaul, 1932.

William and Julia Grote

The Grote family moved to a farm at Portsmouth from Neola, Iowa, in 1935. William farmed until 1955, he then retired and moved to town. He served on the town council and was mayor from 1960 to 1970.

James W. Grudle Family

James Grudle was born at Elm Creek, Nebraska, on September 16, 1925. He is the son of Joseph and Matilda (Buettner) Grudle. On October 5, 1949 at St. Columbanus Church, Weston, Iowa he was united in marriage to Patricia Ann McDonald. She was born March 17, 1926 at Neola, Iowa, and her parents were William and Grace (Good) McDonald. They have four children: Dennis, 1950; Sandra, 1955; Donald, 1958; Jeanne, 1961.

Jim Grudle Family

Mr. and Mrs. Grudle farmed at Neola, Iowa for four years and then moved to Crescent, Iowa where they farmed until moving to a farm in the Persia, Iowa area in 1974. They are members of St. Mary's Parish.

Russell Haas Family

The Russell Haas' own and operate a farm southeast of Portsmouth, Iowa. Russell Haas and Dorothy Chipman were married November 24, 1946. Russell's parents were Adolph and Johanna (Nielsen) Haas. He was born November 3, 1925. Dorothy is the daughter of William and Eva (McDonald) Chipman. She was born in 1929. They are the parents of four children: Larry, 1949; Ron, 1951; Cindy, 1959 and Lori, 1965. Lori attends Harlan Community High School.

Russell Haas Family

Russell S. Hansen Family

Russell S. Hansen and Lillian G. Blakely were married in Omaha, Nebraska, on November 12, 1932. Russell is the son of the late Emil and Bertha (Sparby) Hansen. He was born July 11, 1912. Lillian, the daughter of Rollie and Violia (Bates) Blakely, was born January 31, 1916. They are the parents of four children: Madeline Hansen Borden, 1933; Bernard (Bud), 1936; Carol Jean Hansen Schnack, 1938; Judy Jane Hansen Robinson, 1947.

Russell has been a farmer in Cass Township southeast of Portsmouth for many years. His parents, the Emil Hansens, had lived there some years ago.

Charles E. Hayes Family

Charles E. Hayes is the son of the late Edward Charles and Louisa (Andersen) Hayes. He was born November 3, 1930. On June 7, 1950, he was united in marriage to Bernadine A. Pauley at Panama, Iowa. Her parents are Leo and Louise (Schmitz) Pauley. They are the parents of four daughters and one son; Marcia, 1951; Phyllis, 1952; Daniel, 1955; Janelle, 1959; Patricia, 1963.

Charles Hayes Family

Charles (Chuck) served in the Army from 1949 to 1950. The family resides on their farm east of Portsmouth. Bernadine has worked at the Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan, Iowa, for a number of years.

Alvin A. Heller Family

Alvin Heller and Ethel Stessman were married at Panama, Iowa, in November of 1948. Alvin's parents are

Alvin Heller Family

Henry and Frances (Gubbels) Heller. He was born in 1926. Ethel was born at Panama, Iowa, in 1927, and she is the daughter of Alfred and Beatrice (Leuschen) Stessman. They have two sons and two daughters; Patricia Heller Knipstein, 1949; Karen Heller Ortner, 1951; Ronald, 1955; John 1959.

Alvin served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. He is owner-operator of Heller Gas and Oil Co. Ethel is employed at the State Bank of Portsmouth. Alvin is active in the American Legion and has served in local offices as well as in several offices of the 7th District.

Henry B. Heller Family

Henry Heller's parents, William and Mary (Book) Heller, came to America from Germany. Henry was born at Portsmouth, Iowa in February of 1903. On April 15, 1925, he was married at Portsmouth, Iowa to Frances Gubbels. She was the daughter of William and Louise (Horn) Gubbels. She was born in 1903. There are nine children in the Henry Heller family: Alvin, 1926; Elaine Heller Buckley, 1928; Mary Helen Heller Finken, 1929; Richard, 1930; Rose Heller Schnuettgen, 1931; Bonnie Heller Thielen, 1933; Philip, 1937; Darlene Heller Kenkel, 1938; Veral, 1940.

Henry Heller Family

Henry owned and operated the Standard tank wagon and Gas Station until 1964. He then sold the businesses to his sons and retired. His wife passed away in 1979. Henry continues to reside in his home in Portsmouth.

Philip Heller Family

Philip A. Heller Family

Philip Heller and Doramae Dermody were married at Neola, Iowa, on June 16, 1960. Phil's parents are Henry and Frances (Gubbels) Heller. Doramae is a native of Neola, Iowa, and she is the daughter of Philip M. and Mary Jo (Good) Dermody. They are the parents of three children: Jackie Heller Borkowski, 1961; Cheri, 1963 and Rog, 1970.

Phil served in the Army Reserves and served on active duty in 1961. He is co-owner and partner in Heller Oil Company. Cheri Heller is presently the organist for the St. Mary's adjult choir. Phil is serving on St. Mary's Regional School Board.

Richard Heller Family

Richard Lee Heller Family

Richard Heller, son of Henry and Frances (Gubbels) Heller, was born August 19, 1930. On April 8, 1953, he was united in marriage to Barbara Sondag at St. Mary's Church in Portsmouth, Iowa. Her parents were the late Joe and Mary (Hammes) Sondag. She was born July 16, 1931. They are the parents of four children: Gary, 1954; Robert, 1957; Joann, 1960 and Paul, 1962.

Richard served in the U.S. Navy aboard the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Essex for four years during the Korean Conflict. He is co-owner and partner in Heller Oil Company. He is a member of the Portsmouth Centennial Committee. Barbara Heller is a member of the Centennial History Book Committee.

Ernest Hendricks Family

Ernest Hendricks and Luella Leinen were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, on September 14, 1943. Ernest was born March 6, 1922, and was the son of August and Olga (Nollen) Hendricks. Luella's parents were Michael D. and Flora (Stinn) Leinen. She was born June 11, 1918. Ernest and Luella have six children: Karen Hendricks Wehr, 1944; Jo Ann, 1947; Darlene Hendricks Fiscus, 1949; Larry, 1951; Colleen Hendricks Wingert, 1952 and Ronald, 1954.

Ernest was engaged in farming most of his life. He passed away in 1972. Luella resides in Portsmouth and has been employed at the Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan, Iowa for a number of years.

Don Herbst Family

Don Herbst is a native of Panama, Iowa. He is the son of Elmer and Agnes (Stessman) Herbst. On November 26, 1963, at Earling, Iowa, he was married to Shirley Foxhoven. She is the daughter of Henry and Frances (Kaufman) Foxhoven of Earling, Iowa. Don and Shirley have two sons and one daughter: Richard, 1964; Dean, 1967; Katherine, 1971. The Herbst children attend school at Shelby-Tennant.

The Herbst family moved to this area in 1969. They farm east of Persia, Iowa, and are members of St. Mary's Parish.

Philip Herkenrath Family

Philip Herkenrath was born in the town of Portsmouth on January 7, 1916, and has lived there continuously all of his life. His parents were the late John J. and Dolly (Whaley) Herkenrath. He was united in marriage at Panama, Iowa, on October 9, 1935, to Helen Marie Herbst. She is a native of Panama, and her parents were Matthias and Margaret (Sonntag) Herbst. She was born August 25, 1918. Phil and Helen have eight children: Phil, Jr., 1936; Darlene Herkenrath Johnson, 1937; James, 1938-1939; Richard, 1940; Sharon Herkenrath Belder, 1941; Linda Herkenrath Bruck, 1942; John J. II, 1944; Mary Jane Herkenrath Malley, 1946.

Phil served in the U.S. Army in 1944-1945. Phil and Helen Herkenrath purchased a tavern from Ike Ohlinger in 1946. They continued to operate this business until they retired in 1978, and sold the business to Ronald Reinig. The tavern was housed in the same building that once housed Herkenrath's General Store that had been owned by Phil's father, John, and his grandfather, Peter Herkenrath.

Archie O. Hillyer

Archie Hillyer's great grandparents were Izra (1817-1891) and Elizabeth (1817-1884) Hillyer. His grandparents, Amos (1838-1887) and Anna (Vance) Hillyer (1841-1898), came to Shelby County from Illinois in 1875. Archie's father, Oren O. Hillyer, was fourteen years old at the time. The Hillyers operated a cheese and butter factory on their farm north of Portsmouth. By 1880, they hauled butter and cheese to Council Bluffs, Iowa, by team and wagon, as there was yet no railroad at Portsmouth. They took their wheat to Dunlap to be ground into flour.

Archie Hillyer is the son of Oren O. and Linda E. (Walter) Hillyer. Oren was born in 1861 and passed away in 1942. His wife, Linda, was born in 1873 and died in 1915. There were three children in the Oren Hillyer family: Bessie (1893-1965); Archie (1895); Amos (1901). The Oren Hillyer family moved to Harrison County in 1892.

Archie Hillyer was married to Alda Swanger at Macon, Missouri, November 8, 1943. She is the daughter of Oca W. and Lola M. (Runyan) Swanger. Alda was born in 1907. They reside on a farm west of Portsmouth. Archie served in the Army in 1918-1919. He is the fourth generation Hillyer to live in this area.

The deceased members of the Hillyer families are buried in the Cass Township Cemetery.

Robert Holstein Family

The Robert Holstein family moved to Persia, Iowa, from Omaha, Nebraska, in 1975. They have been members of St. Mary's Parish since that time.

Robert Holstein, born in 1946, is the son of August G. and Marguerite (Smith) Holstein. On June 6, 1970, at Holy Cross Church, Omaha, Nebraska, he was united in marriage to Francene Kotera. Francene was born in 1946. She is the daughter of Frank J. and Agnes (Kopecky) Kotera. They are the parents of five children: Anjanette, 1971; Justin, 1972; Gretchen, 1974; Seth, 1977; Caroline, 1980. The Holstein children attend school at Tri-Center.

Bob served in the Army from 1969 to 1971. He and Francene are both very active in church activities and have helped with high school CCD classes for several years. Bob is a salesman.

Gerald Huebert Family

Gerald Huebert is a native of Panama, Iowa. He is the son of Henry and Gertrude (Leinen) Huebert. He was born in 1932. He was married at Westphalia, Iowa, in 1957, to Betty Hermeling. She was born at Westphalia in 1933, and she is the daughter of the late Tony and Margaret (Murray) Hermeling. They are the parents of three sons and three daughters: Dan, 1958; Mike, 1959; Dennis, 1961; Deb Huebert Gessert, 1963; Diane, 1963; Janice, 1966.

Gerald Huebert Family

Gerald served in the Army from 1953 to 1955. The Huebert family moved to a farm northwest of Portsmouth in 1973 from Westphalia, Iowa. Besides farming, Gerald and his sons operate a roofing business.

Gerald and Betty are both active in community and parish organizations. Gerald is the American Legion Post Commander for the 1981-1982 term.

Albert P. Huebner Family

Albert Huebner and Helen Skalla were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on February, 22, 1938. Albert is the son of the late Joseph and Josephine (Graeve) Huebner. He was born September 6, 1910. Helen's parents are Jacob and Elizabeth (Vicarious) Skalla. She was born December 23, 1918. Al and Helen are the parents of two sons, Robert J., 1939 and Ronald J., 1943.

Al Huebner Family

Al has been a lifelong farmer and he and his wife reside on their farm west of Portsmouth.

Harold W. Huebner Family

Harold Huebner is the youngest son of the late John and Lena (Plambeck) Huebner. He was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, in 1929. On May 24, 1954, at Dunlap, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Joan Murphy. Her parents are John and Ann (O'Connor) Murphy, and she was born in 1938.

Harold Huebner Family

They are the parents of two sons and two daughters: Marty, 1955; Julie, 1957; Patrick, 1963; and Mary Jo, 1965.

Harold has been a lifelong farmer. He served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953. The family resides on their farm west of Portsmouth. Joan is a LPN and is an office nurse for Drs. Donlin and Harris in Harlan, Iowa. Harold is the director of St. Mary's adult choir in which capacity he has served since the choir was organized in the 1960's.

Robert (Bud) Huebner Family

Robert "Bud" Huebner and Catherine Ohlinger were married at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa on June 24, 1937. Robert is the son of the late John and Lena (Plambeck) Huebner. He was born January 3, 1915. Catherine's parents were Mike and Clara (Schomer) Ohlinger of Panama, Iowa. She was born December 17, 1918. Bud and Catherine have seven children: Clarice Huebner Lengeman, 1937; Lavonne Huebner Turner, 1939; Karen Huebner Carlson, 1943; Marvin, 1945; Merle, 1946; Wayne, 1948; Roberta Huebner Peth, 1952.

Robert Huebner Family

Bud has been a lifelong farmer and he and his wife reside on their farm southwest of Portsmouth.

Alfred John Hughes Family

Alfred Hughes was raised at Alcester, South Dakota, and is the son of Glenn and Bernadine (Gessert) Hughes. He was born July 10, 1949. On June 21, 1969, at St. Patrick's Church in Akron, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Henrietta Mae Leenderts. Henrietta was born November 5, 1948, and she is the daughter of Abel and Reka (Mulder) Leenderts. She is from Ellsworth, Minnesota. There are four children in the Hughes family: Shelley, 1970; Cynthia, 1971; Todd, 1975; Angela, 1977.

Alfred and his wife moved to Portsmouth in June of 1969. His parents, the Glenn Hughes, lived at Portsmouth some years ago. Al is a farmer and is also leadman in the hide cellar at Spencer Foods, Oakland, Iowa. They live on a farm northwest of Portsmouth.

(Robert) Wayne Juhl Family

Wayne Juhl and Connie Skalla were married at Harlan, Iowa on September 1, 1967. Wayne's parents are Robert (Bob) and Betty (Swenson) Juhl of Harlan, Iowa. Connie is the daughter of Al and Viola (Zangerle) Skalla. She was born July 28, 1951. Wayne and Connie have four children: Michael, 1968; twins, Amy Jo and Angie Rae, 1971; Molly Sue, 1977.

Wayne Juhl Family

Wayne served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1970, spending a year in Viet Nam. He is a truck driver. The Juhl family lived in Portsmouth until moving in August of 1981 to Breda, Iowa.

Joseph F. Jurschak Family

Joseph F. Jurschak, son of Peter and Margaret (Fuhs) Jurschak, was born May 27, 1918, at Portsmouth, Iowa. His father was born in Austria in 1874 and came to this country when he was seventeen. On December 30, 1941, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, Joseph was married to Wanda Buman, youngest daughter of the late John and Helen (Rosman) Buman. Wanda was born September 10, 1918, at Harlan, Iowa.

Joseph and Wanda Jurschak were the parents of seven children: Marilyn Jurschak Stonier, 1942-1980; Robert 1951-1951; Karen Jurschak Clark, 1943; Gwen Jurschak Sidles, 1944; Marlene Jurschak Burnham, 1946; Joseph A., 1950 and Kenneth J., 1956.

Joseph lived in different homes along the same road, three miles northwest of Portsmouth all of his lifetime and

was engaged in agriculture. He passed away May 10, 1981. Joseph was Democratic chairman of Cass Township for the last twelve years. His wife, Wanda, has continued to live on the farm since his death.

Peter J. Jurschak, Jr. Family

Peter J. Jurschak, Jr. and Lucille Herkenrath were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on September 10, 1935. Peter was the eldest son of Peter and Margaret (Fuhs) Jurschak. He was born at Portsmouth, Iowa in 1909. Lucille is the daughter of the late Anthony (Pal) and Ann (Skalla) Herkenrath. She was born in 1915. Pete and Lucille were the parents of three daughters: Peggy Jurschak Thielen, 1936; Maxine Jurschak Gau, 1939; Judy Jurschak Hicks, 1942.

Pete was engaged in farming until his death on June 11, 1969. His wife, Lucille, still owns and operates the farm that has been in the Jurschak family since 1902. Lucille is a member of the Centennial History Book Committee.

Donald Kaufman Family

Donald Kaufman was born and raised in the Westphalia, Iowa area. He is the son of Tony and Rosalia (Fuhs) Kaufman. He was born in 1940. On September 26, 1964, at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Ramona Schmid. Her parents were Aloysius and Evelyn (Graves) Schmid. She was born in 1940. They are the parents of three children: Duane, 1965; Deanne, 1968 and Joseph, 1971.

Don came to the Portsmouth area in 1962. He owns and operates the farm that belonged to his late grandfather, Jacob Fuhs, where the family resides.

Marvin J. Kenkel Family

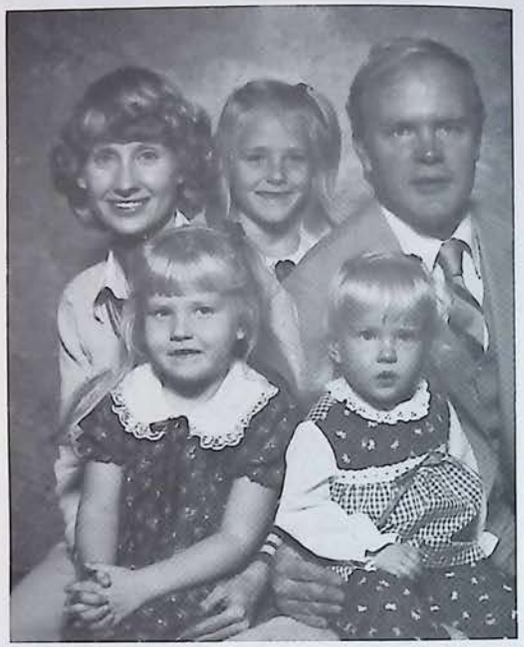
Marvin Kenkel moved to Portsmouth from Earling, Iowa, with his parents, Herman and Katherine (Kobold) Kenkel, in 1944. Marvin was born May 30, 1928. On January 28, 1952, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Dorothy Frederick. Dorothy was born July 29, 1928. Her parents were the late Frank J. and Kathryn (Parkinson) Frederick. The Kenkels are the parents of one son, Stephen, 1955 and one daughter, Judy, 1958.

Marvin is an excavating contractor and house mover. His wife, Dorothy, is a member of the Centennial History Book Committee.

Marvin Kenkel Family

Ronald King Family

Ronald William King was born November 1, 1942, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and is the son of Forrest and Elizabeth (Seeger) King. On November 22, 1972, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Mary Sue Ryan. Her parents are William and Marilyn (Willard) Ryan of Persia, Iowa. She was born July 4, 1952. Ron and Mary King have three daughters: Gretchen, 1974; Laura, 1977 and Kathleen, 1979.



Ron King Family

Ron King served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1960 to 1966. He is now a bank lending officer. The King family live in Persia, Iowa and are members of St. Mary's Parish.

Harold Kleffman Family

Harold Michael Kleffman and Monica Noreen Smith were married at Portsmouth, Iowa on December 30, 1946. Harold is the son of the late John and Frances (Rau) Kleffman. He was born in 1918. Monica was from Manilla, Iowa, and her parents were John and Sarah (McAndrews) Smith. She was born in 1918. They are the parents of nine children: Joseph, 1947; John, 1949; Thomas, 1950; Sarah, 1951; Mary Kleffman Schaer, 1952; Martha, 1954; Therese Kleffman Jacobs, 1955; Michael, 1958; James, 1962-1962.

Harold has been a lifelong farmer. Monica moved to Portsmouth in 1944. They reside on their farm southeast of Portsmouth.

Harry Kleffman Family

Harry Kleffman, son of the late John and Frances (Rau) Kleffman, was born in 1925. On January 2, 1950, at Defiance, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Cecilia Reischl. Her parents were Joe and Pauline (Schenk) Reischl of Defiance, Iowa. She was born in 1928. The Kleffmans

Harry Kleffman Family

have six children: Patricia Kleffman Mihina, 1950; Kenneth, 1952; David, 1954; Joan Kleffman Herbst, 1955; Leo, 1958; Janet, 1960.

Harry has farmed all of his life. He and his wife reside on their farm southeast of Portsmouth.

Ralph F. Kleffman Family

Ralph F. Kleffman and Helen M. Kloewer were married December 3, 1945 at Panama, Iowa. Ralph was born July 23, 1917. He is the son of the late John and Frances (Rau) Kleffman. Helen, a native of Panama, Iowa, was born April 13, 1924. She is the daughter of Gottlieb and Eleanor (Rau) Kloewer. Ralph and Helen have seven sons and one daughter: Robert G., 1946; Ralph J., 1948; William, 1950; Stephen, 1951; Glen, 1952; Loraine Kleffman Mages, 1954; Paul, 1958; Bernard, 1962.

Ralph served in the Army from 1940 to 1945. During this time he was a prisoner of war for twenty six months in Germany. The Kleffmans' son, William, died in Tay Ninh Viet Nam in 1970. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Until retiring, Ralph farmed and also worked in construction. Helen is employed at Olson's Dry Cleaners in Harlan, Iowa.

Ron Kleffman Family

Ron Kleffman, son of Walt and Kathleen (Pursell) Kleffman served in the Army from 1961 to 1963. In August of 1964 he was married at Panama, Iowa to Marilyn Smith, daughter of Ural and Evelyn (Bissen) Smith of Panama, Iowa. Ron and Marilyn have three children: Dawn, 1965; Troy, 1967; Tonya, 1974.

The Kleffman family live in Portsmouth. Ron is employed in Harlan and Marilyn is a registered nurse and works at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan.

Walter Kleffman Family

Walter Kleffman and Kathleen Pursell were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, on May 27, 1941. Walter was the son of John and Frances (Rau) Kleffman. He was born February 17, 1920. Kathleen's parents were the late Frank and Eldene (Bendon) Pursell. She was born December 13, 1922. They were the parents of four children: Jean (died on March 5, 1955 in a fire at the J. Raymond home while babysitting); Ronald, 1942; Loretta Kleffman Swanson, 1949; Neil, 1952.

Walter and Kathleen Kleffman

Walter was a farmer and then was a long distance semi-truck driver for twenty-five years. Walter passed away in 1976.

Ron Knauss Family

Ron Knauss, son of Wendall and Doris (Plath) Knauss of Persia, Iowa, was born in 1951. On July 15, 1972, at Portsmouth, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Lucy Wendt. Lucy, born in 1953, is the daughter of John and Elaine (Thielen) Wendt. Ron and Lucy have three sons: Brian, 1973; Brad, 1976; and Brent, 1979.

Ron served in the U.S. Army in the early 1970's. The family lives in Portsmouth and Ron is employed at Western Iowa Pork in Harlan, Iowa.

Alvin V. Kohl Family

Alvin Kohl and Marilyn Ohlinger were married at St. Mary's Church Portsmouth, Iowa, on February 20, 1965. Alvin's parents are Warren and Leona (Arkfeld) Kohl of Defiance, Iowa. He was born May 25, 1944. Marilyn is the daughter of John and Rita (Reinig) Ohlinger. She was born February 5, 1946. They are the parents of three

Alvin Kohl Family

daughters and one son: Susanne, 1965; Julianne, 1967; Christine, 1968; Daniel, 1972.

Alvin farms west of Portsmouth. Marilyn is a waitress at Mickels Restaurant in Harlan, Iowa. They have both been active in community and church activities. Alvin is an umpire for softball games, and has served as a coach. Their children help sing at the Saturday evening Mass at which Julie is one of the guitarists.

Gary Kohles Family

Gary Kohles and Beverly Huebner were married at Panama, Iowa, on Easter Monday, April 15, 1963. Gary is the son of Delbert and Celestine (Arkfeld) Kohles of Panama. He was born March 11, 1942. Beverly's parents are Bill and Irene (Wegner) Huebner. She was born November 25, 1942. The Kohles are the parents of three daughters and one son: Lisa, 1964; Lori, 1966; Mary Jo, 1968 and Marvin, 1975.

Gary works for the Shelby County Road Department and also operates a barber shop in Portsmouth. Beverly is a bookkeeper at the State Bank of Portsmouth.

The Kohles family enjoys sports and Gary coaches the high school CYO girls softball team. He presently is the fire chief of the Portsmouth Volunteer Fire Department. Beverly serves on the St. Mary's Regional School Board and is also treasurer for the Portsmouth Centennial Committee.

Gary Kohles Family

Ralph Kruger

Ralph Kruger, son of William and Rose Kruger, was born March 24, 1896. In June of 1921, he was married at Portsmouth, Iowa, to Marie Bendon. She was the daughter of Giles and Anna (Herkenrath) Bendon.

Ralph and Marie Kruger
Giles and Anna Bendon

Ralph, a veteran of World War I, was a lifelong farmer. Marie passed away in June of 1971. Ralph continues to live in Portsmouth in the house he and his wife built when they retired from farming.

Fred Kwapiszeski Family

Fred Kwapiszeski was born at Panama, Iowa in 1918. His parents were Fred W. and Caecilia (Fromm) Kwapiszeski. On March 31, 1951, at Mayetta, Kansas, he was married to Marcella Cooney. Marcella was born at Mayetta, Kansas, in 1924. She is the daughter of the late Felix and Sarah (Coleman) Cooney.

Fred has been a lifelong farmer. Since their marriage, Fred and Marcella have lived continuously on a farm south of Portsmouth.

Their four children, adopted in 1957, are: James, 1952; Robert, 1953; and twins, Mark and Mary Kwapiszeski Jacobsen, 1955.

Marcella is a retired social worker. She has served on many community and church committees over the years. She is the chairman of the Centennial History Book Committee.

Lauren Dwayne LaSourd Family

L. Dwayne LaSourd was born at Woodbine, Iowa, on May 5, 1919. He was the son of Frank and Minnie (Peters) LaSourd. On August 8, 1942, he was married to Opal Higgins at South Dakota, Nebraska. Opal is the daughter of Russell and Lola (Frank) Higgins. She was born June 22, 1920, and is from Denison, Iowa. They were the parents of five daughters: Debra Ann, 1951-1952; Terri LaSourd Potter; 1954; Toni LaSourd Tarkington; 1957; Tami, 1959; Trudi 1962.

Dwayne served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He and his wife moved to Portsmouth in the mid 1940's

Dwayne LaSourd Family

and he ran a trucking business as well as a grocery store until 1977. He passed away August 29, 1981. He and his daughter, Debra, are buried at Woodbine, Iowa.

Richard Langenfeld Family

Richard Langenfeld, son of the late John and Mary (Rosenthal) Langenfeld, was born at Westphalia, Iowa, on May 19, 1925. On October 1, 1946, he was married to Suzette Sondag at St. Mary's Church in Portsmouth. Her parents were Joe and Mary (Hammes) Sondag, and she was born December 19, 1924. The Langenfelds are the parents of six children: Mary Langenfeld Naujokaitis, 1948; Jane Langenfeld Parsons, 1951; Don, 1952; John, 1956; Allen, 1959-1960; Ann, 1962.

Richard Langenfeld Family

Richard has farmed in the Portsmouth area since 1951. He has also been a plumber at Leinen Hardware in Portsmouth for 25 years. In 1979, he rented his farm out and moved into Portsmouth. Suzette is serving on the Centennial History Book Committee.

Dan Lefeber

Dan Lefeber and Charlene Gubbels were married at St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, Iowa, on September 23,

Dan and Charlene Lefeber

1978. Dan is the son of Eugene and Joanne (Frank) Lefeber, and he was born August 17, 1954. Charlene's parents are Ambrose and Rita (Goeser) Gubbels. She was born at Westphalia on October 11, 1957.

Dan is employed at Case Power and Equipment in Harlan, Iowa. Charlene works at the Harlan Newspapers also in Harlan. They live in Portsmouth.

Eugene Lefeber Family

Eugene Lefeber, son of John and Emma (Leinen) Lefeber, was born April 17, 1931. On July 14, 1953, at Earling, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Joanne Frank, daughter of Anton and Barbara (Bissen) Frank of Earling, Iowa. Joanne was born March 13, 1932. The Lefebers have four sons and four daughters: Dan (1954); Diane Lefeber Butler (1956); Julie Lefeber McCool (1958); Kathy Lefeber Keane (1959); Randy (1961); Peggy (1964); Ricky (1966); Kelly (1972).

Eugene served in the Air Force from 1952 to 1956. He farms east of Portsmouth, and he is also a Real Estate Agent.

John Lefeber Family

John H. Lefeber and Emma Leinen were married November 5, 1928, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. John was the son of Stephen and Christine (Foxhoven) Lefeber, and he was born June 9, 1903. Emma's parents were Constant H. and Rose (Greiner) Leinen. She was born September 1, 1909. They were the parents of: Russell (1929); Eugene (1931); Richard (1932); Ernest (1934); Robert (1941); Margie Lefeber Gorden (1943); Lavonne Lefeber Jensen (1947).

John Lefeber Family

John farmed all of his married life southeast of Portsmouth. He passed away in 1963 and Emma lived on the farm until moving to Portsmouth in 1965. Emma continues to be active in church and community affairs. She plans and oversees the cooking for most of the weddings and funerals in the parish. She has been serving in this capacity for almost twenty years.

Peter Lefeber Family

Peter Lefeber was the son of Stephen and Christine (Foxhoven) Lefeber, and he was born August 12, 1901. On November 24, 1925, at Panama, Iowa, he was married to Clara Blum. She is the daughter of Michael and Catherine (Clemens) Blum. She was born March 29, 1900. They were the parents of: Harold (1931); Verdella Lefeber Sidebottom (1937); Kathleen Lefeber Miller (1938); Darlene Lefeber Bossen (1941).

Pete farmed south of Portsmouth until retiring and moving to Portsmouth in 1962. He passed away in 1972. Clara resides in their home in Portsmouth.

Richard Lefeber Family

Richard Lefeber and Stella Kramer were married at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, on May 21, 1956. Richard is the son of John and Emma (Leinen) Lefeber, and he was born October 27, 1932. Stella's parents are Carl and Marie (Feldman) Kramer of Earling, Iowa. She was born June 4, 1935. They are the parents of six children: Sandy Lefeber Schmitz (1957); Connie Lefeber McFarland (1959); Cheri (1961); Dean (1962); Jeff (1965); Janet (1966).

Richard Lefeber Family

Richard served in the Army in 1953-1954. He farms west of Portsmouth and also works at Western Iowa Pork in Harlan, Iowa. The family enjoys sports and Rich has been a little league coach during the years his family has been growing up.

Robert L. Lefeber Family

Robert L. Lefeber, son of John and Emma (Leinen) Lefeber, was born March 3, 1941. On April 11, 1964, at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Irene Kramer. She is the daughter of Carl and Marie (Feldman) Kramer, and she was born August 15, 1940, at Earling, Iowa. Bob and Irene have five children; Thomas (1965); Jackie (1966); Michele (1968); Scott (1970); John (1978).

Bob has been a lifelong farmer. He served in the Army from 1961 to 1963. The family resides on the farm that his parents had lived on for many years southeast of Portsmouth.

Albert A. Leinen Family

Albert A. Leinen, son of Mathias and Anna (Hammes) Leinen, was born January 17, 1899. He was born in the home where his father first settled when he came to Cass Township. On February 10, 1920, he was married to Helen M. Hainley. Her parents were Francis and Martha (Gill) Hainley, and she was born December 13, 1898. They are the parents of three daughters; Helen Leinen Stein, Mildred Leinen Reinig, and Dolores Leinen Schmitz.

Albert Leinen Family

They started farming on his father's farm in 1920. They farmed until 1949 and then moved to Portsmouth. Albert took up woodworking as a hobby after moving to town and has made over 50 wooden wall rosaries. He has also made a number of grandfather clocks out of one hundred

year old walnut wood taken from trees planted by his father on the farm, plus many other items. Over the years, Helen made over 720 rugs on a loom they bought in 1961.

Albert and Helen have lived all of their lives in the community and have been active in church and community activities.

Donald Leinen

Donald Leinen was born November 15, 1925. He is the son of Joseph P. Leinen and Caroline (Stinn) Leinen. He has one sister and three brothers; Virginia Reinig, Bernard, Richard and Joseph. Don served in the Army Signal Corps from 1950-1952 and spent sixteen months in Korea. He is a very active member of the community. He has been Cass Township clerk since 1959, assessor, member of the conservation board, active in the American Legion and is a 4th Degree Knight in the Luke Hart Assembly at Defiance. Don is a "rock hound" and also enjoys bowling, hunting and playing cards. He is the secretary for the Centennial Committee.

Don Leinen

Edward T. Leinen Family

Edward Leinen and Peggy Ann Kenkel were married at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, on June 9, 1973. Ed is the son of Michael T. and Ramona (Slaven) Leinen, and he was born August 22, 1949. Peggy's parents are Alfred N. and Leanette (Rosman) Kenkel of Earling, Iowa. She was born June 6, 1952. The Leinens have three daughters; Melissa (1976), and twins, Katherine (Katie) and Sarah

Ed Leinen Family

(1980). These children are the 6th generation of the Mathias Leinen family to live in Portsmouth.

Ed works at Leinen Hardware in Portsmouth. Peg is a beautician and opened Peggy's Beauty Shop in February of 1979.

Francis Leinen

Francis Leinen is the son of early Cass Township residents, Peter M. and Anna (Ohlinger) Leinen. He was born in 1909. He was married at Atlantic, Iowa, on August 3, 1935, to Dorothy M. Loehr. Dorothy, a native of Defiance, Iowa, born in 1908, is the daughter of the late Jacob and Josephine (Petsche) Loehr.

Francis, "Red," was in the trucking business from 1934 to 1947. He was then employed by Shelby County, working on the road maintenance crew. He is now retired.

Francis is a past mayor, town councilman and volunteer fireman.

Harold M. Leinen

Harold Leinen, son of Peter F. and Mary (Thielen) Leinen, was born October 14, 1921. His brothers and sisters are Agnes, Helena, Louis, Anna, Evelyn, Barbara (deceased), Matt (deceased), Rosemary and Lawrence. He served in the U.S. Navy 1942-1945.

Harold Leinen

Farming has been his lifelong occupation. He resides with his uncle, John J. Leinen, on a farm east of Portsmouth.

Joseph P. Leinen Family

Joseph P. Leinen and Caroline Stinn were married at Earling, Iowa, on January 13, 1925. Joe's parents were early Cass Township settlers, Peter M. and Anna (Ohlinger) Leinen. He was born February 6, 1902. Caroline is the daughter of the late Casper and Agnes (Nowatzke) Stinn of Earling. The Joe Leinens have five children: Donald (1925); Virginia Leinen Reinig (1927); Bernard (1932); Richard (1934); Joseph, Jr. (1938).

Over the years, Joe has worked actively in church and community affairs. He was a church trustee from 1952 to 1975, assessor, and one of the original trustees of the Myrtue Memorial Hospital. He served on the hospital board from 1950 to 1972. He was also involved in baseball from 1917 to

Joe Leinen Family

1942, either as player or manager. He has been a lifelong farmer and is now retired.

John J. Leinen

John J. Leinen, son of early Cass Township settlers, Mathias and Anna (Hammes) Leinen, was born July 26, 1892. His parents had twelve children and the only surviving members of this family, besides John J., are Albert A. Leinen of Portsmouth and Magdalen (Mrs. Mike Daeges) of Omaha.

John J. "Frisch" Leinen

John, "Frisch," served in the 3rd Calvary-G Troop during World War I. He enjoys sports, especially baseball. He has been a lifelong member of St. Mary's Parish and sang in the adult choir for several years. He is a retired farmer.

Kenneth A. Leinen Family

Kenneth Leinen and Debra Bruck were married May 7, 1977. Ken is the son of Mark and Rita (Kloewer) Leinen, and he was born February 10, 1953. Debra's parents are Michael and Ursula (Leinen) Bruck. She was born September 18, 1956. They have one son, Kyle Matthew born April 11, 1980.

Ken is active in sports, community and parish activities. He is assistant fire chief of Portsmouth Volunteer Fire Dept. and is vice-president of St. Mary's Parish Council. 1982 will mark Ken's 12th year as a pitcher on the Portsmouth Townteam baseball squad. Ken and Deb golf as a hobby.

Ken Leinen Family

Ken is an account representative for the Motorola Company and Deb is program assistant, Shelby Co. ASCS (USDA) Office in Harlan, Iowa.

Louis A. Leinen

Louis Leinen was born September 6, 1919, and he is the son of Peter F. and Mary (Thielen) Leinen. His brothers and sisters are Agnes, Helena, Harold, Anna, Evelyn, Barbara (deceased), Matt (deceased), Rosemary and Lawrence.

Louis Leinen

Louis served in the Army Infantry 1941 to 1945. He is a farmer and also does carpenter work and cement block laying. He resides on his farm east of Portsmouth which was the Leinen family home place.

Mark Leinen Family

Mark Leinen, son of Michael D. and Flora (Stinn) Leinen, was born in 1921. He was married at St. Peter's Church, Defiance, Iowa, in 1943, to Rita Kloewer. Rita is the daughter of Frank and Anna (Rau) Kloewer, and she was born in 1922. Mark and Rita were the parents of seven children: Marilyn Leinen Carl (1946); Gene (1947-1971);

Mark and Rita Leinen

Joyce Leinen Book (1950); Kenneth (1953); Mary Lu Leinen Flaherty (1954); Marvin (1956); Cathy Leinen Pauley (1958).

Mark was a lifelong farmer. He passed away in 1980. His wife, Rita, continues to reside on their farm north of Portsmouth. She has been a nurses aid at the Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan, Iowa, for sixteen years.

Marvin Leinen Family

Marvin Leinen and Pamela Pauley were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on July 16, 1977. Marv is the son of Mark and Rita (Kloewer) Leinen, and he was born in 1956. Pam's parents are Michael and Arlene (Schwery) Pauley. She was born in 1958. They have one daughter, Holli Ann, born in 1979.

Marvin Leinen Family

Marvin is on the town council. He is employed at Squealer Feed, Harlan, Iowa, and also farms.

Michael T. Leinen Family

Michael T. Leinen, son of Michael E. and Anna (Sondag) Leinen, was born July 13, 1920. On February 11, 1942, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Ramona Slaven. Ramona is the daughter of Henry and Bertha (Hainley) Slaven and she was born April 19, 1922. There are twelve children in the Leinen family: Michael R. (1943); Jeanne Leinen Mueller (1944); Jane (1945); Janet (1947); Richard H. (1948); Edward (1949); Allen (1951); Martha Leinen Burckhardt (1952); John M. (1955); Thomas (1958); Nicholas (1960); Anne (1962).

M.T. Leinen Family

The Leinens believe in community involvement which consists of religion, education, recreation, community progress, etc. Michael and Ramona, over the years, have served on the school board, parish council, ASCS and Conservation committees and various other committees. Michael has coached several high school and junior high basketball and baseball teams as well as midget baseball teams and town teams.

"Mick" has been a lifelong farmer and the family resides on their farm east of Portsmouth.

Paul J. Leinen Family

Paul J. Leinen and Barbara Kroeger were married at St. Patrick's Church, Neola, Iowa, on November 27, 1947. Paul was born March 22, 1926, and he is the son of the late Michael E. and Anna (Sondag) Leinen. Barbara is a native of Minden, Iowa. She was born December 22, 1926, and is the daughter of Ray and Thelma (Sperry) Kroeger of Minden. Paul and Barbara are the parents of five sons and one daughter: Paul, Jr. (1948); Susan Leinen Villageliu (1951); Tim (1953); David (1955); Jeff (1959); Scott (1968).

The Leinens have been active in church and community activities. Paul is owner of Leinen Hardware in Portsmouth.

Paul J. Leinen Jr. Family

Paul J. Leinen, son of Paul J. and Barbara (Kroeger) Leinen, was born in 1948. On July 1, 1972, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Mary Collins. Mary is the daughter of John and Phyllis (Moats) Collins of Persia, Iowa. Mary is a native of Persia, and she was born in 1952. The Leinens have two sons and one daughter, Joshua (1974), Jeremy (1976), Jaime (1977).

Paul served in the Army in 1969-1970. He is assistant manager of Leinen Hardware in Portsmouth. He is involved

Paul Leinen, Sr. Family

Paul Leinen, Jr. Family

in church and community organizations. The three Leinen children are the 6th generation of Mathias Leinen Sr. to live continuously in Portsmouth.

Richard F. Leinen Family

Richard F. Leinen and Alma Kramer were married at Earling, Iowa, on May 4, 1954. Richard is the son of Joseph P. and Caroline (Stinn) Leinen, and he was born February 18, 1934. Alma is from Earling and is the daughter of Carl and Marie (Feldman) Kramer. She was born April 24, 1934. Rich and Alma have five daughters: Donna Leinen Muell (1956); Deb Leinen Muell (1960); Bonnie (1961); Vicki (1964); Cindy (1968).

Richard served in the Army from 1956-1958. He is foreman for the Shelby County Road Dept. Alma is employed at Variety Distributors in Harlan, Iowa. Richard

Richard Leinen Family

has been the mayor of Portsmouth since 1978. He has served on numerous parish and community committees.

Zeno Leinen Family

Zeno Leinen, son of early Cass Township residents, Peter M. and Anna (Ohlinger) Leinen, was born January 25, 1907. On February 4, 1931, he was united in marriage to Viola M. Schwery at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa. She is the daughter of the late Melchior and Theresa (Klein) Schwery and she was born January 31, 1909. There are nine children in the Leinen family; Ursula Leinen Bruck (1932); James (1933); Orville (1934); Harvey (1936); Eunice Leinen Blum (1937); Verlee (1941); Mildred Leinen Brus (1944); Linda Leinen Daoust (1946); Zita Leinen Smith (1950).

Zeno Leinen Family

Zeno was a lifelong farmer. He lived on the farm that had been the Peter M. Leinen homestead. He and his wife are now retired and they moved into Portsmouth several years ago. Their daughter and husband, Zita and Galen Smith, now live on the Leinen farm.

Stanley Martens Family

Stanley Martens and Joan Stamp were married at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Persia, Iowa, on January 22,

1950. Stanley was born in 1929, and is the son of the late Honas and Vera (Downey) Martens. Joan is the daughter of Ed and Edith (Bauer) Stamp. She was born in 1931. They are the parents of four children: Terry (1953); Steve (1955); Debbie Martens Morgan (1958); Lynn (1959).

The Martens reside on their farm west of Portsmouth. Stanley has been a lifelong farmer. Their sons have all played baseball for the Portsmouth town team in the last few years.

Alfred Mikels Family

Alfred Mikels, son of Mathias and Genevieve (Fuhs) Mikels, was born July 10, 1921. He was united in marriage to Mae Williams on September 7, 1944, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Mae's parents were Clyde and Clementine (Plambeck) Williams. She was born July 2, 1922. They are the parents of six children: Ronald (1946); Donald (1948-1966); Wayne (1949); Karla Mikels Schaffer (1953); Galen (1957); Brent (1961).

Al and Mae are both lifelong members of the community. Al farms and they reside on their farm northwest of Portsmouth.

Delmar J. Mikels Family

Delmar Mikels was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, on April 30, 1927. His parents were the late Matt and Genevieve (Fuhs) Mikels. On October 6, 1956, at St. Peter's Church, Defiance, Iowa, he was married to Phyllis Kenkel. She is the daughter of the late Emil and Carmen (Scheuring) Kenkel. She was born at Defiance on March 11, 1935. Delmar and Phyllis have five children: Denise Mikels Leonard (1957); Dean (1958); Diane (1960); Donna (1962); Danette (1964).

Delmar Mikels Family

Delmar has farmed all of his life and the family resides on a farm east of Portsmouth. Phyllis is a nursing instructor at Iowa Western Community College.

Raymond G. Mikels

Ray Mikels has been a lifelong farmer and resides on his farm north of Portsmouth. He is the son of the late Matt and Genevieve (Fuhs) Mikels, and he was born in 1918. He had seven brothers and sisters; Veronica Klein, Edward (deceased), Alfred, Eva Slaughter (deceased), Delmar, Deloris Hicks, and Richard.

Ray graduated from St. Mary's High School and has lived in the community all of his life.

Richard M. Mikels Family

Richard Mikels and Jeanette Rau were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, on December 30, 1953. Richard's parents were the late Matt and Genevieve (Fuhs) Mikels, and he was born March 2, 1930. Jeanette is the daughter of Gilbert and Lidwina (Eisterhold) Rau. She was born May 10, 1933. The Mikels have five children; Lyle (1955); Lynn (1956); Jayne Mikels Garrison (1957); Cheryl Mikels Ferry (1959); Sue Ellen (1963).

Richard, "Dick," was in the Army Engineers from 1951 to 1953. He has been a farmer all of his life and the family lives on a farm east of Portsmouth. Dick and Jeanette have both been active in church and community organizations.

Wayne R. Mikels Family

Wayne Mikels is the son of Alfred and Mae (Williams) Mikels and he was born in 1949. He was married at St. Patrick's Church, Dunlap, Iowa, on August 28, 1971, to Mary L. Delehant. Mary's parents are John W. and Eileen (Gilmore) Delehant. She was born in 1951. They have three children, Brenda (1972), Lara (1978) and Jace (1979).

Wayne was born and raised in the Portsmouth community and Mary is a native of Dunlap, Iowa. He is a farmer and the family lives northwest of Portsmouth.

Edward Miller Family

Edward Miller, son of Frank and Mary (Jurgensmier) Miller, was born September 6, 1928. On October 6, 1954, he was married to Helen Springman at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Helen's parents were the late Nick and Anna (Kloewer) Springman and she was born February 6, 1934. Ed and Helen are the parents of Kathy Miller Husmann (1955); Randy (1956); Dave (1958); Bev Miller Schwery (1959); Marge Miller Crees (1960); Joe (1963); Larry (1964); Mary (1966); Amy (1971).

Ed Miller Family

Ed was in the Army from 1951-1953. He and his wife have served on numerous committees in the parish and community. Ed has farmed all of his life and the family resides on their farm northwest of Portsmouth.

Kenneth Monahan Family

Kenneth Monahan was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, in 1943. He is the son of Cyril and Armella (Gubbels) Monahan. On October 12, 1963, at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Phyllis Ann Smith. She is a native of Panama and is the daughter of Ural and

Evelyn (Bissen) Smith. She was born in 1942. Ken and Phyllis have five sons: Jeffrey (1964); Kurt (1966); Thomas (1967); Dean (1970); Lon (1973).

Ken has lived in Portsmouth all of his life. He is co-owner of Monahan Bros. Oil Co. He was a member of the National Guard. Phyllis is a registered nurse at Myrtue Memorial Hospital, Harlan, Iowa.

Neil Monahan Family

Neil Monahan and Delores Kurtenback were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on October 22, 1960. Neil was born March 16, 1938, and he is the son of Cyril and Armella (Gubbels) Monahan. Delores, a native of Atlantic, Iowa, is the daughter of Pete and Hilda (Bintner) Kurtenback. She was born May 24, 1939. They are the parents of three children: Cathy (1962-1980), Cindy (1963), Mike (1964).

Neil was in the National Guard from 1958 to 1964. He is co-owner of Monahan Bros. Oil Co. Delores is a registered nurse at Myrtue Memorial Hospital, Harlan, Iowa.

Neil's parents, Cyril and Armella Monahan, lived in Portsmouth all of their married life. Armella passed away January 10, 1977. Cyril has since remarried and lives at Earling, Iowa, with his wife, the former Marie Gross. He commutes to Portsmouth on a daily basis and works with his sons in their business.

Daniel E. Muell Family

Daniel Muell was born at Panama, Iowa, on January 21, 1958. He is the son of Kenneth and Theresa (Goetz) Muell. On June 9, 1979, he was married to Deborah A. Leinen at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Deborah's parents are Richard F. and Alma (Kramer) Leinen. She was born January 14, 1960. The Muells have one son, Jeremy Daniel, born May 18, 1981.

Dan Muell Family

Dan is a mechanic and Deb is a secretary. Deb was the organist for St. Mary's adult choir for several years. They reside on their acreage north of Portsmouth.

Donald P. Muell Family

Donald Muell is a native of Panama, Iowa. His parents are Kenneth and Theresa (Goetz) Muell of Panama, and he was born in 1954. He was married on June 19, 1976, to Marcy Mathiasen at the home of her parents at Harlan, Iowa. She is the daughter of Norman and JoAnn (Christensen) Mathiasen. She was born in 1956. Don and Marcy have one son, Nathan Donald, born in 1979.

Don is assistant vice-president of the State Bank of Portsmouth. Marcy is an independent beauty consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics. They reside in Portsmouth.

Jerome Mumm Family

Jerome Mathew Mumm and Shirley Steinkuehler were married at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, on February 17, 1960. They moved to the Portsmouth community from Earling in 1962. Jerome was born April 10, 1939, and he is the son of the late Peter and Frances (Gross) Mumm. Shirley's parents are Reinhardt and Vernette (Johannsen) Steinkuehler. She was born October 10, 1940. There are four children in the Mumm family: David (1961); Donna (1962); Steven (1964); Curtis (1967).

Jerome Mumm Family

Jerome has been a lifelong farmer and the family lives on their farm east of Portsmouth. Shirley is a beautician.

Their son, David, was married to Kathy McKeighan at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth in May 1980. They reside near Persia, Iowa. They have one son, Nathan, born in 1981.

Paul Richard McDermott Family

Paul McDermott, a native of Wood River, Nebraska, was born January 1, 1925. He is the son of John and Zoah (Green) McDermott. On April 7, 1958, at St. Francis Xavier Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Charlotte Kleffman. Charlotte is the daughter of the late John and Frances (Rau) Kleffman and she was born October 24, 1923. Her parents lived at Portsmouth during the years Charlotte was growing up. They are the parents of four children; Dianne (1960), Philip (1962-1977), Richard (1964) and Ann Marie (1968).

The McDermott family moved from Council Bluffs, Iowa, on March 1, 1966, to their newly built home on their farm east of Portsmouth. Paul is a farmer.

John (Dwight) McKean

John (Dwight) McKean and Dorothy Ratashack were married on August 8, 1964, at St. John's United Church of Christ, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Dwight's parents are William (Lee) and Florence (Peterson) McKean. Dorothy is the daughter of Gus and Mary (Diedricksen) Ratashack. She was born at Walnut, Iowa. The McKeans have one daughter, Marsha Lynn, born October 31, 1965. She is the 4th generation to live on the McKean farm and attends school in Woodbine, Iowa.

Dwight served in the Army-40th Infantry from 1950 to 1952. He is a farmer. Dorothy was employed for fourteen years with Northwestern Bell.

Mike Neubauer

Mike Neubauer is the eldest of the ten children of Joseph and Susan (Gondringer) Neubauer, formerly of Portsmouth, Iowa. His brothers and sisters are Nicholas (deceased), Marie Meyers, Eleanor Ash, Frances Radke, Harold, Rose, John, Max, and Robert. Mike was born September 29, 1912.

Mike Neubauer

Mike moved to Norwalk, Iowa in 1929, and returned to make his home in Portsmouth in 1948. He is a laborer and also does cemetery work.

Pat Newland Family

Pat Newland and Barbara Arkfeld were married at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa, on April 19, 1939. Pat is the son of James and Catherine (White) Newland. Barbara's parents were the late Peter and Christena (Huebner) Arkfeld of Panama, Iowa. The Newlands are the parents of seven children: Lanny (1943); Danny (1947); Sherry Newland Heller (1949); Terry (1951); Marsha Newland Carter (1952); Marlow (1956); Roxann (1958).

Pat has been a lifelong farmer. The family has lived for many years on their farm south of Portsmouth.

David A. Ohlinger

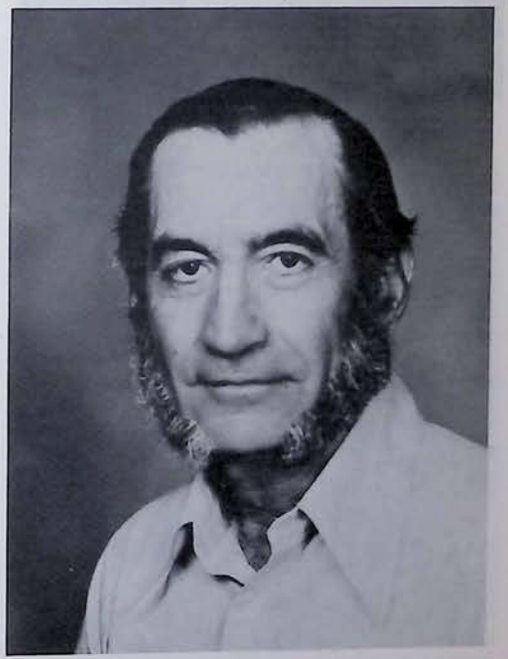
David Alfred Ohlinger was born August 14, 1959, and he is the son of John H. and Rita (Reinig) Ohlinger. His brothers and sisters are: Marilyn Kohl; Carolyn Hein; Jane Book; Emily Ryan; John R.; Richard ; Rose Bruck; Alice and Stephen.

David is a machinist and works in Harlan, Iowa. He was active in CYO while in high school. He plays on the town team basketball and baseball teams, as well as on the men's softball team. David lives in Portsmouth.

David Ohlinger

Ernest N. Ohlinger

Ernest Ohlinger was born and raised in the Portsmouth community. He has lived all of his life at Pleasantdale Farm one-half mile east of Portsmouth, Iowa. Ernest was born November 6, 1922 and he is the son of the late Peter J. and Margaret (Leinen) Ohlinger. He was the youngest of seven children and his brothers and sisters are: Peter M., Emma Monahan, Leo J., Alfred M. (they are all now deceased); Mary Ann Feser and John.



Ernest Ohlinger

Ernie served in the Army, 913th F.A. Bn. Italy, 1945-1947. He sang and performed for six years with the Harlan Community Chorus and Theatre Group. He is active in community and parish activities. He enjoys photography and sports. He is a member of the Centennial History Book Committee and a good number of the pictures in this book can be attributed to his diligence in either seeking them out or actually taking them.

John Ohlinger Family

John Henry Ohlinger was named after his uncle of the same name who was killed in World War I, in 1918. John is the son of the late Peter J. and Margaret (Leinen) Ohlinger and he was born March 16, 1920. On April 17, 1945, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Rita Reinig. Her parents are August and Mary (Kenkel) Reinig, and she was born January 17, 1921. John and Rita are the parents of ten children: Marilyn Ohlinger Kohl (1946); Carolyn Ohlinger Hein (1947); Jane Ohlinger Book (1948); Emily Ohlinger Ryan (1950); John R.(1951); Richard (1954); Rose Ohlinger Bruck (1955); Alice (1957); David (1959) and Stephen (1960).

John Ohlinger Family

During his lifetime, John has been active in church and community activities, as well as sports. He is a member of St. Mary's Choir. Rita was a 4-H Leader and is active in church affairs. They farmed all of their married life and moved into their home in Portsmouth in March of 1981.

Richard L. Ohlinger Family

Richard Ohlinger and Mary Whannell were married at St. Patrick's Church, Neola, Iowa, on June 7, 1975. Richard's parents are John and Rita (Reinig) Ohlinger, and he was born in 1954. Mary is from Minden, Iowa. She is the daughter of Donald and Yvonne (Reid) Whannell. She was born in 1955. Rich and Mary have three daughters: Lori (1975), Lisa (1977) and Cheryl (1978).

Richard Ohlinger Family

Richard is a farmer. In March of 1981, the family moved to a farm southeast of Portsmouth. They enjoy sports and Rich has played, umpired and coached, at one time or another, baseball and basketball teams.

Stephen Donald Ohlinger

Stephen Ohlinger was born at Portsmouth, Iowa on July 24, 1960. He is the son of John and Rita (Reinig) Ohlinger. He has nine brothers and sisters: Marilyn Kohl; Carolyn Hein; Jane Book; Emily Ryan; John R.; Richard; Rose Bruck; Alice, and David.

Steve Ohlinger

Stephen has been working at the Harlan National Bank, Harlan, Iowa, since he was a senior in high school. He was active in CYO basketball and now plays mens' softball. He lives in Portsmouth.

Karen Lavon Oloff

Karen Oloff moved to Portsmouth from Persia, Iowa, in 1976. Karen is the daughter of William and Anna (Matthiessen) Oloff, and she was born May 18, 1954. She has one brother, William, and one sister, Kathryn (Mrs. Wesley Ruggles).

Karen is a bookkeeper at the State Bank of Portsmouth. She has lived, since 1979, in the mobile home she had moved onto the lot previously owned by Cyril Monahan.

Joseph Patten Family

Joseph Patten was born January 1, 1900. He is the son of the late Henry and Catherine (Zimmer) Patten. He was married, in 1927, to Alma, "Sis" Plambeck. She is the daughter of early settlers, William and Clementine (Emke) Plambeck. They are the parents

Joe Patten Family

of nine children: Joyce Patten Galiher (1928); Joann (1930-1954); Lotus Patten McKeighan (1932-1975); Carolyn Patten Wilson (1934); Duane (1936); Dale (1940); Larry (1941); Lynn (1944); Cheryl Patten Dickman (1946).

Joe farmed west of Portsmouth for many years. Joe and "Sis" moved into Portsmouth in 1965. Joe operated the gas station on the south edge of Portsmouth for thirteen years. He is now retired.

Steve Patten Family

The Steve Patten family reside in a house that was one of the first homes built in the town of Portsmouth. Mrs. Patten's grandfather, the late Michael D. Leinen, remembers staying in this house when he was a little boy. Steve Patten and Peggy Reisz were married on October 1, 1977, at Portsmouth, Iowa. Steve is the son of Duane and Marlis (Herbst) Patten and he was born in 1956. Peg's parents are Walter and Mary Ellen (Leinen) Reisz and she was born in 1957. They are the parents of one daughter, Theresa, born in 1981.

Steve is employed at Harlan Manufacturing in Harlan, Iowa. Peg is a dental assistant in Woodbine, Iowa.

Fred (Fritz) Pauley Family

Fred Pauley and Elvera (Vera) Gessert were married on January 12, 1932, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Fred's parents were Hobert and Anna (Mikels) Pauley, and he was born in 1907. Vera is the daughter of the late Frank and Catherine (Michalski) Gessert. She was born in 1913. They were the parents of three children: Michael (1933); Dorothy Pauley Leinen (1934); Delores Pauley Klein (1938).

Fritz was a lifelong farmer. At the time of his death in 1981, he was retired and living in Portsmouth. The Pauley home stands on the corner that was occupied by the Methodist Church during its existence in Portsmouth.

Galen Pauley Family

Galen Pauley, son of Michael and Arlene (Schwery) Pauley, was born October 6, 1955. On July 16, 1977, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Cathy Leinen. Her parents are Mark and Rita (Kloewer) Leinen. She was born June 11, 1958. They have one daughter, Alissa Marie, born May 22, 1980.

Galen is employed at Western Iowa Pork, Harlan, Iowa, and Cathy is an insurance clerk at the Drs. Clinic in Harlan.

Galen Pauley Family

Kevin Pauley Family

Kevin Pauley was born and raised in the Portsmouth community. He is the son of Ted and Rose (Pitsch) Pauley and he was born May 17, 1933. On May 26, 1956 at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Karla Kirby. Karla is from the Harlan, Iowa, area and is the daughter of the late Edgar and Lucy May Kirby. She was born March 13, 1933. The Pauleys have eight children: Kurt (1957); Kent (1958); Kathleen Pauley Cue (1960); Keith (1962); Kay (1965); Kelly (1966); Kerri (1968); Kirby (1970).

Kevin served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He is the owner and operator of Pauley Recycling which is an auto recylcing and body shop located near their farm home south of Portsmouth.

Kevin Pauley Family

Lloyd Pauley Family

Lloyd Pauley and Nancy Kleinjan were married at St. Philomena's Church, Omaha, Nebraska, on October 1, 1960. Lloyd's parents are Ted and Rose (Pitsch) Pauley, and he was born March 30, 1938. Nancy was born and raised at Hastings, Nebraska, and she is the daughter of

Lloyd Pauley Family

C.B. and Evalin (Millette) Kleinjan. She was born May 21, 1937. Lloyd and Nancy have three daughters and one son: Debra (1961); Deanne (1962); Christine (1963); Allen (1965).

Lloyd has been a lifelong farmer in the community. Nancy was employed in Omaha for two years and this is where she met Lloyd. She has lived at Portsmouth since their marriage. She is employed as a secretary in Harlan, Iowa.

Michael Pauley Family

Michael Pauley, son of Fred and Elvera (Gessert) Pauley, was born in 1933. On November 8, 1954, he was united in marriage to Arlene Schwery at St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, Iowa. Arlene's parents are Leo and Priscilla (Musich) Schwery of Westphalia, Iowa. She was born in 1936. They are the parents of one son and three daughters: Galen (1955); Roxanne Pauley Reinig (1957); Pamela Pauley Leinen (1958); Michelle Pauley Pauley (1963).

Mike Pauley Family

The Pauley family moved from Woodbine to a farm by Portsmouth in 1958. They moved into their home in Portsmouth in 1968. Mike is employed at Harlan Milling in Harlan, Iowa.

Theodore Pauley Family

Theodore "Ted" Pauley and his wife, Rose (Pitsch) Pauley have lived in the Portsmouth community all of their lives. Ted's parents were Peter and Clara (Thielen) Pauley. He was born in 1900. Rose is the daughter of the late John and Mary (Reinig) Pitsch, and she was born in 1899. They were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on June 9, 1926. They were the parents of nine children: Grace Pauley Ciolli (1928); Bonnie Pauley Stoltz (1930); Janette (1931); Kevin (1933); Melvin (1934-1970); Neil (1936); Lloyd (1938); Diane Pauley Still (1939); Terry (1943-1975).

Ted Pauley Family

Ted was a lifelong farmer and lived on the farm until his death in 1977. His wife, Rose, moved into Portsmouth two years ago, where she now resides.

Neil J. Petsche Family

The Neil J. Petsche family live on their farm east of Portsmouth. Neil is the son of the late Anthony and Margery (Schwery) Petsche. He was born October 16, 1948. On May 30, 1969, at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Margaret "Peg" Schmitz. Her parents are Vince and Dolores (Leinen) Schmitz of Panama, Iowa. She was born January 9, 1949. There are three children in the Petsche family: Donald (1970), David (1971), and Pattie Jo, born March 7, 1977, and placed in their home for adoption April 7, 1977.

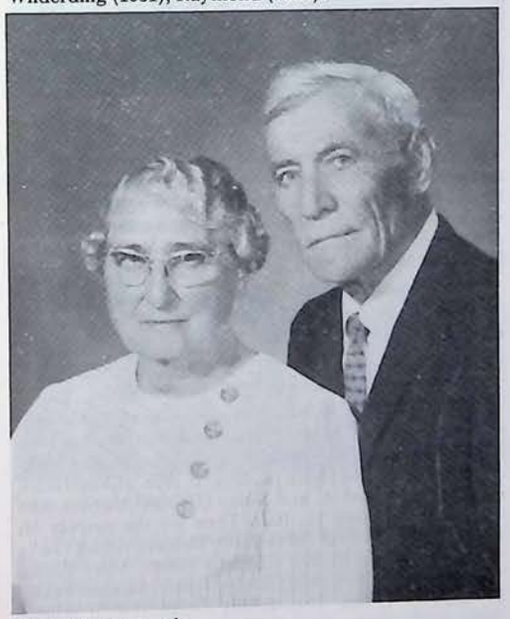
The Petsche family enjoys sports and Neil has managed and played on the Portsmouth town team baseball team for a number of years. Both, he and his wife, are active in church and community activities.

John M. Pitsch Family

John M. Pitsch was born November 6, 1893, in Cass Township, and is the son of the late John and Mary (Reinig) Pitsch. His parents came to America from Germany. In 1891, they purchased a 160 acre farm east of Portsmouth which is now owned by the John Pitsch's and farmed by their son, Raymond, who lives on the farm. On May 8,

Neil Petsche Family

1923, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, John was united in marriage to Mary Hein. Her parents, John and Mary (Behrendt) Hein, lived on a farm north of Portsmouth. Mary was born March 27, 1899. The John Pitschs are the parents of three children: Edward (1924); Theresa Pitsch Wilderding (1931); Raymond (1934).



John and Mary Pitsch

John is a World War I veteran and served in France. He is a charter member of the American Legion, John Ohlinger Post, at Portsmouth. Mr. and Mrs. Pitsch lived on their farm for 47 years and moved into the Senior Apartments in 1971 and have resided there since that time.

The Pitsch's son, Edward, lived on his farm north of Portsmouth for a number of years. He is a veteran of World War II serving in France. He now lives in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Their son, Raymond, now lives on and farms the home place. Raymond was in the U.S. Army for two years, eighteen months of this time was spent in Germany.

Harry Plambeck Family

Harry Plambeck and Kathryn Pursell were married on July 16, 1913, at Neola, Iowa. Harry was the son of Wm. and Clementine (Emke) Plambeck, and he was born March 9, 1889. His parents were early Portsmouth community residents. Kathryn is the daughter of the late Frank and Arminta (Champlin) Pursell. She was born October 28, 1892. There were five children in the Plambeck family: Denis (1915); Doris Plambeck Rosenthal (1918); H. William (1922); Max (1933); Donna Plambeck Norgard (1935).

The Plambecks farmed south of Portsmouth. After Harry's death, Kathryn continued to make her home on the farm. She now resides in her home in Portsmouth. Kathryn was . a school teacher for many years, both in the rural and town schools. She now spends much of her time, crocheting, quilting and doing other needlework.

Harry William Plambeck Family

H. William Plambeck, son of Harry and Kathryn (Pursell) Plambeck, was born September 12, 1921. On May 11, 1943, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Helen Greiner. Her parents were the late Nick and Mary (Bauer) Greiner. She was born March 9, 1924. They are the parents of five sons and four daughters: William J. (1944); John (1945); Mary Plambeck Herkenrath (1946); Janet Plambeck Mortensen (1947); Jerry (1948); Patty Plambeck West (1950); Robert (1954); Jim (1957); Lori (1960).

The Bill Plambecks reside on their farm east of Persia, Iowa. They have been lifetime members of St. Mary's Parish.

Gilbert Rau Family

Gilbert Rau was born and raised on a farm northeast of Westphalia, Iowa. He is the son of the late Mike and Mary (Lachman) Rau, and he was born August 23, 1899. On November 27, 1923, at Defiance, Iowa, he was married to Lidwina Eisterhold. Lidwina was born March 17, 1903, at Rich Fountain, Missouri. Her parents were Frank and Dora (Richter) Eisterhold. Lidwina came to Iowa at the age of fifteen to keep house for her brothers who farmed south of Defiance, Iowa. Gilbert and Lidwina lived at Westphalia after their marriage and these children were born at Westphalia: Dorothy Rau Gaul (1925); Marie Rau Grote (1926); Mike (1927); Leo (1928); Zita Rau Bruck (1930); Alma Rau Kramer (1931); Leonard (1932); Jeanette Rau Mikels (1933); Lita (1934); Martha Rau Mumm (1935); Verla Rau Mumm (1938); Mervin Rau Corbin (1939); Patricia Rau Kuether (1941). The family moved to a farm northeast of Portsmouth in 1944. Gilbert, Jr. (1945) and Judy Rau Jones (1946) were born there.

Gilbert Rau Family

In 1955, the family moved to a farm near Manilla, Iowa, and they lived there until retiring from farming in 1964. Gilbert and Lidwina then moved back to Portsmouth and this is where they now reside.

Their daughter, Lita, became a Franciscan Sister in 1952. She died suddenly in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1973. Their son, Mike, passed away in 1975.

Their sons, Mike, Leo and Gil served in the Army. Leonard was in the active Reserves.

Leonard Rau Family

Leonard Rau and Alice Schleimer were married at Panama, Iowa, on May 26, 1955. Leonard was born at Westphalia, Iowa, in 1932. His parents are Gilbert and Lidwina (Eisterhold) Rau. Alice was born near Defiance, Iowa, in 1936 and she is the daughter of Tony and Elenor (Thraen) Schleimer. Leonard and Alice are the parents of: Connie Rau Mick (1958); Joan Rau Schechinger (1959); Ronda (1961); Jolene (1964); Robert (1967); Craig (1970); Leslie (1972); Keri (1980). One son, Gary died in 1963.

Leonard Rau Family

Leonard moved to Portsmouth in 1943. He and Alice have lived all of their married lives in the Portsmouth area. Leonard is now serving on the town council. He is also a member of the Centennial Committee. He served in the Active Reserve from 1949 to 1963.

Allan Reinig

Allan Anthony Reinig was born on April 29, 1954. He is the only living son of Anthony and Mildred (Leinen) Reinig. His sisters are Dolores Gaeta, Rose Ann Cannella, Mary Baker, Judy Hensley, Susanna Wooldridge, Joan Ouren.

After graduation from Iowa State University he worked as a staff engineer for Iowa Natural Resources Council for two years. Then for three years he was an engineering supervisor. He is now farming and is a private consultant in Agricultural Engineering. He lives east of Portsmouth.

Alvin H. Reinig Family

Alvin Reinig was born on a farm near Panama, Iowa, on June 5, 1925. He is the son of August and Mary (Kenkel) Reinig. His family moved to a farm west of Portsmouth in 1941. On December 30, 1950, Alvin was married to Mildred Buman. Mildred's parents were the late George and Clara (Sizer) Buman. She was born September 3, 1929, in the Tennant, Iowa area and lived there until her marriage. Alvin and Mildred have five children: Theresa Reinig Caffery (1951); Patricia Reinig Koffron (1954); Thomas (1955); Karen Reinig Chapman (1958); Janet (1962).

Alvin Reinig Family

Alvin served in the Army 21st Engineer Combat Batallion from 1951 to 1953. Since that time, he has been engaged in farming and he purchased the farm they now live on, north of Portsmouth, in 1959. Mildred is a registered nurse and two of their daughters, Theresa and Patricia, are also in that profession.

The family is active in church and community affairs. Mildred is presently serving as CCD coordinator and has been doing so for the past several years.

Anthony Leo Reinig Family

Anthony Reinig, a native of Panama, Iowa, and Mildred Leinen were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on May 5, 1943. Anthony, son of August and Mary (Kenkel) Reinig, was born January 10, 1922. Mildred is the daughter of Albert A. and Helen (Hainley) Leinen. She was born February 11, 1924. They are the parents of: twins, Peter and Paul (1944-1944); Dolores Reinig Gaeta (1945); Rose Ann Reinig Cannella (1946); Mary Reinig Baker (1947); Judy Reinig Hensley (1948); Susanna Reinig Wooldridge (1949); Joan Reinig Ouren (1951); Bonnie (1952-1952); Anthony, Jr. (1953-1953); Allan (1954).

Anthony and Mildred Reinig

Anthony moved to Portsmouth in 1941. "Tony" has been a lifelong farmer. The Reinigs live on a farm east of Portsmouth that has been in the Leinen family since 1875. Anthony has been active in church and community activities. He was a trustee of St. Mary's Parish for thirty years, until retiring in 1981.

August F. Reinig Family

August Reinig was a lifelong farmer and moved to Portsmouth, Iowa, from Panama, Iowa, with his family to a farm west of town in 1941. August, son of John and Agnes (Neubauer) Reinig, was born March 23, 1892. On January 12, 1920, at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Mary Kenkel. Mary's parents were Anton and Catherine (Jacoby) Kenkel. She was born November 15, 1897. To this union were born these children: Rita Reinig Ohlinger (1921); Anthony (1922); Robert (1923); Joseph S. (1924); Alvin (1925); Theresa Reinig Krupicka (1926); Mary Reinig Slaven (1928); Cecilia Reinig Tunnell (1929); Catherine Reinig Buman (1931); Alfred "Fritz" (1933); Donald (1937); two children, Rose Mary (1934) and Augustine (1938) died in infancy.

August Reinig Family

All of the Reinig children were born and baptized in Panama, Iowa. August was a veteran of World War I, member of the American Legion and a town councilman. He was a trustee for St. Mary's Parish for several years. He passed away in 1969. His wife, Mary, continues to make her home in Portsmouth and is active in church and community organizations.

Duane Reinig Family

Duane Reinig and Linda Michels were married at Panama, Iowa, in St. Mary's Church, on July 21, 1973. Duane is the son of Robert and Virginia (Leinen) Reinig. He was born May 1, 1950. Sylvester and Marcella (Goeser) Michels are Linda's parents. She was born at Panama, Iowa, April 8, 1950. Duane and Linda have two sons, Chad, 1976 and Brian, 1981.

Duane Reinig Family

Duane served in the Navy from 1968-1972. He was stationed in several places including Japan and Alaska. Since that time he has been farming. The family lives on a farm west of Portsmouth. Linda is a physical therapist at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan, Iowa.

Their five year old son, Chad, has become quite a farmer. He is anxious to help his Dad in the field and in doing chores. He is very good at greasing everything in sight.

Joseph F. Reinig Family

Joseph F. Reinig, son of Mathias and Anna (Neubauer) Reinig, was born February 2, 1902. On December 31, 1931, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Martha Leinen. Her parents, Peter M. and Anna (Ohlinger) Leinen, were early members of the Portsmouth community. Martha was born December 2, 1904. Joe and Martha were the parents of four children:

Joyce Ann (1932-1939); Eugene (1934-1979); Ronald R. (1936); Marlene Reinig Prososki (1938).

Joseph worked for the railroad for twenty five years, retiring in 1967. Martha passed away in 1975. Joe continues to reside in his home in Portsmouth, with his son, Ron. Ron is the owner and operator of the Rocket Tavern in Portsmouth. He marks his Leap Year birthdate, February 29, 1936, every four years with a celebration.

Joseph S. Reinig Family

Joseph S. Reinig was born at Panama, Iowa, on March 14, 1924. He is the son of August and Mary (Kenkel) Reinig. The family moved to a farm two miles west of Portsmouth in 1941. On May 8, 1946, at St. Mary's Chapel, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Arlene Leinen. She is the daughter of the late Michael D. and Flora (Stinn) Leinen. She was born October 5, 1923, and was raised on a farm south of Portsmouth. Joe and Arlene are the parents of ten children: Betty Reinig Kubicek (1947); Mike (1948); Richard (1950); Laura Reinig Ilcisin (1951); Ella Mae (1953); Loretta (1955); Jim (1957); Vince (1960); Dan (1962); Kathleen (1966).

Joe S. Reinig Family

Joe has been a lifelong farmer and the family now lives on the Reinig home place, having bought it from his father. The Reinigs are active in church and community organizations. Joe is on the Centennial Committee.

Martin A. Reinig Family

Martin A. Reinig, son of John and Agnes (Neubauer) Reinig, of Panama, Iowa, was born March 16, 1902. He was married to Helen P. Kaufman at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, on September 29, 1943. She is the daughter of the late Henry and Ceceila (Mueller) Kaufman of Earling, Iowa. Helen was born November 16, 1918. They were the parents of two children, Marie Reinig Stolz (1948) and Ronald G. (1950-1972).

Martin Reinig Family

Martin farmed all of his lifetime. He and his wife moved to the Portsmouth area in 1949. They lived on their farm southeast of town until they retired from farming and moved into Portsmouth in 1970. Martin passed away in 1977. Helen resides in their home in Portsmouth.

Robert Reinig Family

Robert Reinig and Virginia Leinen were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, on April 20, 1948. Robert is the son of August and Mary (Kenkel) Reinig. He was born in 1923. Virginia's parents are Joseph and Caroline (Stinn) Leinen, and she was born in 1927. There are five children in the Reinig family: Larry (1949); Duane (1950); Marjorie Reinig Walsh (1952); Lois Reinig Crawford (1956); Sharon Reinig Kohles (1959).

Robert Reinig Family

Bob was born and raised in the Panama area, moving to Portsmouth in 1941. He served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946. He has been a farmer all of his life and he and his wife reside on their farm east of Portsmouth. Bob and Virginia are both active members in church and community organizations.

Thomas Reinig Family

Thomas Alvin Reinig and Denise Esser were married at the Sacred Heart Church, Woodbine, Iowa, on June 14, 1980. Thomas, son of Alvin and Mildred (Buman) Reinig, was born September 14, 1955. Denise is the daughter of Marcus and Sophia (Brandt) Esser of Woodbine, Iowa. She was born December 4, 1955. Tom and Denise are the parents of one daughter, Jennifer, born May 9, 1981.

Tom is engaged in farming with his father. He has an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Farm Management. The family lives north of Portsmouth.

Walter Reisz Family

Walter Reisz is the son of John and Marie (Gerlach) Reisz. He is a native of Panama, Iowa. On October 18, 1951, he was married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, to Mary Ellen Leinen. She is the daughter of the late Michael D. and Flora (Stinn) Leinen of Portsmouth, Iowa. They are the parents of five children: Joan Reisz Potter

Walter Reisz Family

(1952); Philip (1953); Carol Reisz Musich (1955); Peggy Reisz Patten (1957); John (1967).

Walter was in the U.S. Air Force from 1946 to 1949. He moved to Portsmouth when he bought the grocery store in 1953. The Reiszs operated the store until 1961. Walter has been a rural mail carrier since that time.

Edward Rosenthal Family

Edward Rosenthal, son of Joseph and Rosalia (Zimmerman) Rosenthal, was born at Westphalia, Iowa in 1893. On March 3, 1919, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Susan Sondag. She was the daughter of early Cass Township settlers, Theodore and Mary (Korth) Sondag, and she was born in 1894. There were three children born to this union: Rosemary Rosenthal Lajba; Edward A., and Charlotte Rosenthal Stewart.

During his life time Edward has been an electrician, painter, state auditor, town clerk, motel and hotel manager. He now resides at the Little Flower Haven at Earling, Iowa. His wife, Susan, passed away in 1944.

His son, Edward A. Rosenthal, is married to the former Catherine Schechinger. They lived in Portsmouth for a number of years after their marriage. They now reside in Glendale, Arizona.

William L. Ryan Family

The William Ryan family moved from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Persia, Iowa in 1957. Since that time, they have been members of St. Mary's Parish. William, "Bill," is a native of Neola, Iowa, and is the son of Thomas and Grace (Leytham) Ryan. He was born in 1923. His wife, Marilyn, is the daughter of John and Letha (Ellis) Willard. She was born in 1931 and is from Persia, Iowa. They are the parents of six daughters: Laura Ryan Christiansen (1951); Mary Ryan King (1952); Jane Ryan Stein (1956); Nancy Ryan Lauver (1957); Anne Ryan Lindvall (1959); Carol (1960).

Bill served in the U.S. Air Force from 1943 to 1945. He has been engaged in banking for many years.

Mike Sandbothe

Mike Sandbothe came to Iowa, from Freeburg, Missouri, in 1921. He was born December 4, 1900, and is the son of Liborus and Anna (Hoffman) Sandbothe. He was married at Earling, Iowa, in 1928, to Kathryn Foxhoven. She was the daughter of William and Anna (Engel) Foxhoven. Kathyrn was born in 1898 at Earling, Iowa.

Mike and Katie Sandbothe

Mike farmed northwest of Portsmouth for many years. He has also served as the parish custodian under four pastors. Mike and Katie moved into Portsmouth in the mid-1970's. Since that time, Mike has been chauffering older members of the parish to daily mass. Katie died in 1979.

Steve John Sandbothe Family

Steve Sandbothe was born at Kolztown, Missouri, March 29, 1904. He was the son of Liborus and Anna (Hoffman) Sandbothe. He came to Iowa and worked as a hired farm hand in 1930. On November 4, 1930, at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa, he was married to Barbara Pauley. She was born February 18, 1913. Her parents were Peter and Clara (Thielen) Pauley. Steve and Barbara were the parents of

Steve Sandbothe Family

six children: Bernice Sandbothe Klindt (1931); Vernon (1933); Clara Sandbothe Smith (1935); Russell (1937); Mary Sandbothe Wright (1940); Bonita Sandbothe Ferguson (1943).

Steve farmed until he retired and moved to Portsmouth, Iowa in 1968. He passed away in 1979. His wife, Barbara, continues to make her home in Portsmouth.

Nick M. Schechinger, Jr. Family

Nick M. Schechinger, son of Nick and Katherine (Heller) Schechinger, was born in 1925. On July 23, 1945, at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Jean M. Schomer. Jean was born in 1926, and she is the daughter of Peter and Josephine (Thielen) Schomer of Panama, Iowa. Nick and Jean are the parents of one son and three daughters: Julie Schechinger Bulkeley (1946); Jack (1947); Jolene Schechinger Turnbach (1949); Jill (1953).

Nick was born and raised in Portsmouth. He formerly owned and operated the Red and White Grocery Store and the Rocket Tavern.

Gerald Schiltz Family

Gerald Schiltz and Nola Ann Schmidt were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, November 25, 1952. Gerald is from Logan, Iowa, and is the son of Lawrence and Anna (Ebert) Schiltz. He was born November 15, 1928. Nola'a parents are Mike and Odelia (Langenfeld) Schmidt. She was born at Portsmouth, Iowa, November 2, 1930. They are the parents of one daughter and one son, Sandra Kaye (1954), and Roger Michael (1955).

Gerald Schiltz Family

Gerald served in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1948. He moved to Portsmouth in 1952. He has been engaged in farming. The Schiltz family reside in the town of Portsmouth.

Michael Schmidt Family

Michael Frank Schmidt's parents, Frank and Anna (Gluch) Schmidt came to America from Ansfeld, Germany. Michael was born September 24, 1896. On May 2, 1927, at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Odelia Langenfeld. She is the daughter of the late Nicklous and Kate (Krupp) Langenfeld of Earling. Mike and Odelia were the parents of nine children: Joseph (1929, died in infancy); Nola Schmidt Schiltz (1930); Orma Schmidt Fieber (1932); Michael (1933); Joan Schmidt Leinen (1935); Leon (1937); Frances Schmidt Bowen (1938); LuAnn Schmidt Isaac (1941); Gary (1945).

Mike Schmidt Family

Michael served in the Army from 1918 to 1919. He and his wife lived in Portsmouth all of their married lives. He was a contractor. Mike passed away in 1969. Odelia continues to make her home in Portsmouth.

Joseph N. Schmitz Family

Joseph N. Schmitz, son of Peter and Katherine (Windeshausen) Schmitz, of Panama, Iowa, was born September 25, 1912. On September 21, 1936, he was united in marriage to Laurina Stracke at St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, Iowa. Laurina was born October 4, 1915 and is the daughter of the late Henry and Mary (Coenen) Stracke of Westphalia. For the first seven years after their marriage, they lived on a farm northwest of Portsmouth, where all five of their

Joe Schmitz Family

daughters were born. They are the parents of five daughters and two sons: twins, Marleen Schmitz Nabity and Kathleen Schmitz Leinen (1939); Elizabeth Schmitz Anderson (1940); Marietta Schmitz Bellingteir (1941); Therese Schmitz Ratigan (1944); Robert (1951); Michael (1954).

Joe and Laurina moved from the Portsmouth area to Joe's homeplace in the Panama community. In 1974, they retired and moved into Portsmouth. Their son, Robert, now lives on the Schmitz farm and is the third generation to live there.

Lester Schmitz Family

Lester Schmitz came to Portsmouth from Westphalia, Iowa in 1951. He was born February 7, 1927, and he is the son of Bernard and Eleanor (Gubbels) Schmitz of Westphalia. On November 24, 1953, he was united in marriage to Rita Smith at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Rita's parents are John and Elizabeth (Malone) Smith. She was born August 11, 1934. Lester and Rita are the parents of five children: Greg (1954); Jim (1957); Peg Schmitz Caul (1959); John (1963); Susie (1964).

Lester Schmitz Family

Lester is owner of the Portsmouth Insurance Agency. He has been town clerk for 26 years. The family enjoys sports and they have assisted with the CYO girls softball and basketball programs over the last years.

Robert Joseph Schmitz Family

Robert Schmitz is a native of Panama, Iowa. He is the son of Joseph N. and Laurina (Stracke) Schmitz, and he was born in 1951. On April 8, 1972, at Panama, Iowa, he was married to Susan Branstetter. Susan is the daughter of Charles and Betty (McKinstrey) Branstetter of Harlan, Iowa. She ws born in 1952. Robert and Susan have two sons, Daniel (1975) and Patrick (1979).

Robert is a livestock and grain farmer. The family lives on the Schmitz family home place between Panama and Portsmouth. Susan does the bookkeeping for her husband. They are members of St. Mary's Parish.

Mervin Schnack Family

Mervin Schnack, son of Ernest G. and Bertha (Kay) Schnack of Cass Township, was born December 22, 1919. He graduated from Tennant High School in 1937. On June 17, 1945, he was married to Mildred Doonan at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, Iowa. Mildred is the daughter of Clarence and Paulena (Christensen) Doonan. She was born March 4, 1920, and was raised on a farm in Monroe Township. Mildred moved to Cass Township at the time of her marriage. The Schnacks are the parents of one son and one daughter, Gary (1947) and Sheryl (1951).

Mervin and Mildred have been engaged in farming on the same farm since their marriage in 1945. Mildred has been a member of the Pioneer Country Club since 1945. They are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harlan, Iowa. Mervin served on the Tennant School Board and was also a 4-H Leader.

Chris Schoemann Family

Chris Schoemann, son of Nickolas and Barbara (Theisen) Schoemann, was born September 3, 1901. On September 27, 1926, at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa, he was married to Sophia Blum. Sophia, born December 6, 1902, is the daughter of the late Michael and Catherine (Clemens) Blum of Panama, Iowa. They are the parents of eight children: Eugene (1927); Elaine (1928); Grace Schoemann Pauley (1930); Mary (1931); Josephine (1933); John (1935); Cecelia Schoemann Langer (1937); Robert (1938).

Chris Schoemann Family

Three of the Schoemann's daughters, Elaine, Mary, and Josephine are members of the Order of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration of St. Rose Convent, La Crosse, Wisconsin. Their youngest son, Robert, is a priest serving Queen of Apostles Parish in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Chris is a retired farmer. He and his wife live in Portsmouth. They lived for many years on their farm west of Portsmouth. Their son, John and his wife, Joyce, now live on that farm.

Eugene N. Schoemann Family

Eugene Schoemann was born May 10, 1927, on a farm five miles west of Portsmouth. He is the oldest son of Chris

Eugene Schoemann Family

and Sophie (Blum) Schoemann. He served in the Army from 1950 to 1952, in the Military Police in Fort Bragg, N. C. and in Huntsville, Alabama. On February 12, 1952, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was married to Thelma Campbell. Thelma was born August 5, 1929, on a farm in the Walnut Grove area in northern Alabama. She also attended school in that area and is the daughter of Carol and Emma (Slayton) Campbell. Her parents sold the farm and moved to Huntsville, Ala.

Eugene and Thelma are the parents of eleven children: Tony (1953); Steve (1955); Greg (1958); Dave (1960); Angela (1961); Patricia (1962); Barbara Schoemann Kleymann (1963); Jeffery (1964); Janet (1965); Rita (1967); Billy (1968).

Eugene bought out Walt Kleffman's trucking business in 1952. He is still operating a trucking business. He and his family live in Portsmouth.

Alfred Skalla Family

Alfred Skalla was born and raised in the Portsmouth community. He was born August 4, 1912, and is the son of

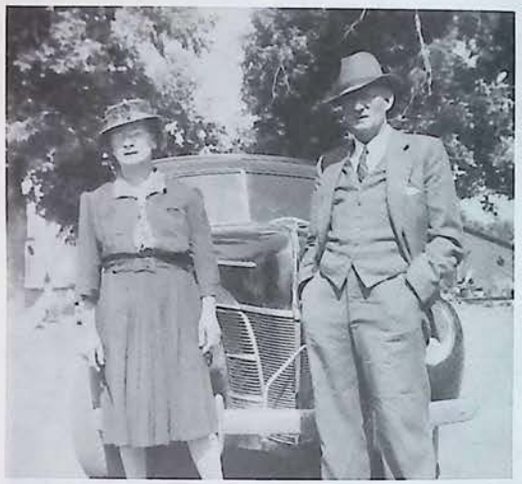
Al Skalla Family

Jake and Elizabeth (Vicarious) Skalla. On June 21, 1943, he was married at Portsmouth, Iowa, to Viola Zangerle. Viola's parents were Frank and Crescentia (Schultz) Zangerle of Panama, Iowa. She was born June 22, 1924. Al and Vi have one daughter, Connie Skalla Juhl (1951). Vi has a twin sister, Pat Stein. Her daughter, Connie, also has twin daughters, Amy and Angie.

Al is a semi-retired farmer. Viola is a barmaid. They moved into their new home in Portsmouth from the farm they operated for many years on the west edge of Portsmouth.

Jake Skalla Family

Jake Skalla came to the Portsmouth area in 1905. He was the son of John and Catherine (Pinter) Skalla of Clinton, Iowa. Jake was born June 27, 1882. He was married at Portsmouth, Iowa, on November 25, 1909, to Elizabeth Vicarious. Elizabeth was born July 18, 1885. Her parents were Michael and Veronica (Pupoloider) Vicarious of South Dakota.



Jacob and Elizabeth Skalla

There were eight children in the Skalla family: LaVere (1910); Alfred (1912); Robert (1914); Vincent (1916); Helen Skalla Huebner (1918); Edwin (1921); Sylvia Skalla Reinig Kepford (1923); Rose Ann Skalla Brummer (1925). Robert and Vincent are deceased.

The Skallas farmed for forty seven years north of Portsmouth. They then retired and moved into Portsmouth. Jake passed away in 1957. Elizabeth continues to make her home in Portsmouth with her son, LaVere.

Henry Slaven Family

Henry Ellet Slaven, son of early Portsmouth area residents, John F. and Sarah (Burket) Slaven, was born March 7, 1895. On June 1, 1921, at St. Cecelia's Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska, he was married to Bertha Hainley. Bertha, daughter of Francis and Martha (Gill) Hainley, was born February 13, 1897. Henry and Bertha had four children: Ramona Slaven Leinen (1922); Loretta Slaven Bristow (1923); John (1925); James (1927).

Henry Slaven Family

Henry served in the Army Infantry Co. L, 1st TRG. REG. 1918-1919. He was a lifelong farmer. Henry passed away in 1948. Bertha continued to live on the farm for awhile and then moved to California. She lived and worked there until she retired and returned to Portsmouth in 1970. She spends much of her time doing needlework, knitting, quilting, etc. She is also a member of several community organizations.

John Slaven Family

John Hainley Slaven and Mary Reinig were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on January 21, 1948.

John Slaven Family

John, son of Henry and Bertha (Hainley) Slaven, was born in 1925. Mary is the daughter of August and Mary (Kenkel) Reinig. She was born in 1928. There are four sons and five daughters in the Slaven family: John Francis (1949); Ann Slaven Waller (1951); Stanley (1952); Kenneth (1953); Barbara (1954); Carol (1958); Catherine Slaven Assman (1959); William (1963); Mary Frances (1965).

John, "Jack," served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1943-1946. He is a farmer and the family lives on a farm north of Portsmouth. Jack has been active in baseball over the years and has been a player, coach and umpired for many teams. He also served as a 4-H leader for 25 years.

Stanley Slaven Family

Stanley Slaven, son of John and Mary (Reinig) Slaven, was born in 1952. He was married May 1, 1976, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, to Diane Goreham. She is the daughter of Raymond and Alice (Roth) Goreham of Carroll, Iowa. Diane was born in 1953 and grew up in Carroll. They are the parents of three children: Jennifer (1977), John (1979), and Beth (1980).

Stanley Slaven Family

Stanley was born and raised on a farm near Portsmouth. He served in the U.S. Army from 1972-1974. He is a truck driver. Stanley was coach of the Portsmouth town team baseball team in 1981.

Cletus Eugene Smith Family

Cletus Eugene, "Gene," Smith moved to Portsmouth, Iowa, in 1944. He was born at Manilla, Iowa on April 2, 1924. His parents were John and Sarah (McAndrews) Smith of Manilla. He was married at Portsmouth, Iowa, on February 3, 1948, to Marian Raymond. Marian is the daughter of Louis and Rose (Leinen) Raymond. She was born May

11, 1924. They are the parents of: Jennifer Smith King (1949); Dennis (1950); Nanette Smith Benscoter (1951); twins, John and Patrick (1952); Christopher (1954); Timothy (1955); Gail (1957); Jay (1959); Geri (1960); Jean (1962); Mary Lou (1965). Patrick passed away in 1973.

Eugene, "Gene," was in the Army Engineers from 1945 to 1947. He is a farmer and the family resided on their farm northwest of Portsmouth until August of 1981. They then moved into their newly built home in Portsmouth.

Gaylen R. Smith Family

Gaylen Smith, born October 4, 1949, is the son of Ural and Evelyn (Bissen) Smith of Panama, Iowa. He was married on June 20, 1970, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, to Zita Leinen. Zita's parents are Zeno and Viola (Schwery) Leinen of Portsmouth. She was born May 22, 1950. Gaylen and Zita are the parents of three daughters and one son: Lisa (1971); Stacy (1974); Angela (1975); David (1977).

Gaylen is a farmer and the family resides on the Zeno Leinen home place east of Portsmouth. Zita is a cosmetologist. They have been members of St. Mary's Parish since their marriage in 1970.

John Smith Family

John Smith and Elizabeth Malone were married on March 7, 1916, at Palmyra, Nebraska. They moved to Iowa from Elmwood, Nebraska in 1928. John was the son of William and Ellen (Bourke) Smith. He was born in 1889. Elizabeth's parents were Michael and Nora (Sullivan) Malone. She was born in 1891. They were the parents of six children: Michael (1917-1919); Mary Elizabeth (1922-1922); John (1924); Margie Smith Madsen (1928); Bill (1930); Rita Smith Schmitz (1934).

John Smith was engaged in farming during his lifetime. They had moved into Portsmouth some years before his death in 1959. His wife, Elizabeth, has continued to make her home in Portsmouth.

Richard Sondag Family

Richard Sondag was born and raised on the same farm that he now owns and operates. He is the son of the late Joseph and Mary (Hammes) Sondag. Richard was born January 14, 1928. On May 20, 1952, he was married to Leona Heese at Earling, Iowa. Leona's parents were Frank and Estella (Wieland) Heese of Earling. She was born August 21, 1931. Rich and Leona have five children: Kenneth (1954); David (1955); Carol Sondag Kelley (1958); Edward (1960); Patricia (1964).

Richard Sondag Family

Richard served in the Army from 1951 to 1953. He has been a lifelong farmer. The Sondags have held various offices in church and community organizations over the years. The Sondag farm was originally owned by Richard's grandmother, Susan Hammes, and has been in the family one hundred years.

Theodore Joseph Sondag Family

Theodore, "Ted," Sondag, son of Joseph and Mary (Hammes) Sondag, was born October 6, 1918. He was born and raised on the family farm east of Portsmouth. He was married to Joan Marie Mumm at St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, on February 2, 1949. Joan is the daughter of the late Peter and Frances (Gross) Mumm. She was born March 2, 1928. Ted and Joan are the parents of nine children: James (1950); Linda Sondag Brannan (1951); Jeanne Sondag Rust (1952); Joseph (1954); Kathleen Sondag Smit (1956); Susan (1960); Jerome (1961); Donald (1963); William (1964).

Ted served in the Army from 1941 to 1946, some of this time being spent in Europe. He has farmed since that time and the family resides on their farm northeast of Portsmouth. Ted and Joan are both active in church and community organizations. Joan is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary for the 1981-1982 term. Ted is on the Centennial History Book Committee.

Vince L. Sonderman Family

Vince Sonderman and Marita Schechinger were married at Portsmouth, Iowa, on February 1, 1938. Vince, son of August and Elizabeth (Kenkel) Sonderman, was born August 10, 1909, at Earling, Iowa. Marita's parents were Nick and Kathryn (Heller) Schechinger. She was born September 20, 1919. Vince and Marita are the parents of: Kenneth (1938); Maxine Sonderman Kenkel (1940); Donna Sonderman Heckert (1943); Beverly Sonderman Phillips (1949); Sandra (1952); Linda (1953). They have one daughter, Janice, who is deceased.

Vince, "Pat," farmed in the Portsmouth area before his marriage in 1938. Pat, until his death in 1981, and Marita have been active in both church and community organizations. They resided on their farm west of Portsmouth and Marita continues to live there.

Melvin H. Sporrer Family

Melvin Sporrer, son of Leonard and Sabina (Hiethoff) Sporrer, was born September 14, 1946. Melvin is from Dedham, Iowa. On December 30, 1972, he was married to Kathleen Grote, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Kathleen was born July 10, 1953. She is the daughter of James and Marie (Rau) Grote. Mel and Kathy are the parents of three children: Julie (1973); Jason (1974); Janel (1978).

Mel served in the Army from 1966 to 1967. He is a farmer and the family moved to Portsmouth from Dedham, Iowa, in January of 1980. Kathy is a licensed practical nurse. They farm southwest of Portsmouth.

Joseph Springman Family

Joseph Springman and Arlene Buresh were married on September 10, 1966, at St. Patrick's Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Joseph, son of Nick and Anna (Kloewer) Springman, was born in 1937. Arlene was born in 1941, and she is the daughter of Steve and Emma (Malacek) Buresh. She was born at Weston, Nebraska, but grew up in the Crescent, Iowa, area. They are the parents of two daughters and two sons: Ramona (1967); Johnny (1968); Jimmy (1970); Sarah (1979).

Joe Springman Children

Joe was born and raised on a farm northwest of Portsmouth. He was in the Army Reserve from 1961 to 1966. Joe is a farmer and the family resides on their farm, the Springman home place, northwest of Portsmouth.

Nicholas Springman Family

Nicholas Springman, son of Nick and Anna (Kloewer) Springman, was born June 14, 1935. On August 9, 1958, he was united in marriage to Lavonne Meier at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Lavonne, born October 9, 1939, is the daughter of Fred and Edna (Dobernecker) Meier. Nick and Lavonne are the parents of three daughters, Deborah (1959), Constance (1960), and Dianna (1962).

Nick was born and raised on a farm west of Portsmouth. Lavonne is from Persia, Iowa. They reside on their farm west of Portsmouth, where Nick is engaged in farming.

Albert P. Stein Family

Albert P. Stein and Patty James were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa on December 1, 1973. Albert, son of Carl and Helen (Leinen) Stein was born May 24, 1949. Patty is the daughter of George and Daisy (Lidgett) James. She was born August 31, 1955. The Steins have three children, Jorge (1975), Carly (1976) and Peter (1980).

Nick Springman Family

Albert was raised on a farm east of Portsmouth. He was in the Army from 1969 to 1971. He is a farmer and the family resides on a farm southeast of Portsmouth.

Carl Stein Family

Carl Peter Stein, son of Peter and Julia (Kleffman) Stein, was born May 2, 1918. His parents both came to America from Germany. On August 12, 1941, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Helen Leinen. She is the daughter of Albert and Helen (Hainley) Leinen. Helen was born July 10, 1922. They are the parents of: Robert (1942); Dorothy Stein Gross (1944); Alfred (1945); Theresa (1946-1946); James (1947); Albert (1949); Patricia Stein Pash (1951); Carl (1952); William (1954); Donald (1955); Kenneth (1957); Lawrence (1958); Paul (1960); Mary Stein Murtaugh (1962).

Carl and Helen were both born and raised in the Portsmouth community. They were both 4-H Leaders and Carl

Carl Stein Family

was a township trustee. Carl passed away in 1976. His wife has continued to make her home on their farm southeast of Portsmouth.

John P. Stein Family

John P. Stein was born and raised on the farm he now owns and lives on. He is the son of the late Nicholas and Anna (Leuck) Stein. John was born in 1903. He was married to Helen Daeges at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa on November 11, 1924. She is the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Thomas) Daeges, and she was born February 18, 1905. They have three children, Richard (1926), Russell (1928), and Cinthia Stein Chamberlain (1947).

John P. and Helen Stein

John has been a lifelong farmer. He and his wife have lived for forty-four years of their married life on the Stein home place northwest of Portsmouth. Helen has been president of the Circle, a social club, for many years and is serving as president of the Quilting Club at the present time.

Kenneth Stein

Kenneth Paul Stein and Julie Ann Schmidt were married December 15, 1979, at St. Michael's Church, Harlan, Iowa. Ken is the son of Carl and Helen (Leinen) Stein. He was born June 18, 1957. Julie's parents are Michael and Lucille (Kloewer) Schmidt. She was born February 21, 1959, and is from Harlan, Iowa.

Ken is a farmer. He and his wife reside on the farm where his father, Carl, was born and raised. Julie is a secretary for Harlan Contracting Company, Harlan, Iowa.

Neil Sternberg, Jr. Family

Neil Sternberg, son of Neil and Helen (Blum) Sternberg, Sr. of Portsmouth was born in 1949. On November 11, 1967, at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Gwen Schomer. Gwen, born in 1949, is the daughter of Bob and Millie (Bryan) Schomer of Panama, Iowa. Neil and Gwen have three children, Todd (1968), Marc (1972), and Kelly (1978).

Neil began farming west of Portsmouth in 1971. The family moved to this area from Harlan in 1973. The Sternberg children attend the Woodbine Schools.

Neil Sternberg, Sr. Family

Neil Sternberg and Helen Blum were married at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa, on November 11, 1937. Neil, born March 15, 1914, is the son of George and Mary (Petsche) Sternberg. Helen's parents were Mike and Gertrude (Nollen) Blum of rural Panama, Iowa. She was born March 23, 1916. They are the parents of three sons and one daughter: Darrell (1940); Dave (1946); Neil (1949); Sandra Kay Sternberg Mraule (1953).

Neil Sternberg, Sr. Family

The Sternberg family moved from Panama to a farm they purchased two and one-half miles west of Portsmouth in 1946. They have owned and operated the farm since that time. Neil and Helen are active in church and community organizations.

Frank Stinn

Frank Stinn was born in 1903, at Earling, Iowa, and he is the son of the late Casper and Agnes (Nowatzke) Stinn. His brothers and sisters were: Flora Stinn Leinen, Bill, Joe and Caroline Stinn Leinen. They are now all deceased except Caroline Leinen.

Frank worked on farms in the Portsmouth area before his retirement. His death occurred December 15, 1981.

Wilfred Stinn Family

Wilfred Joseph Stinn, born in 1918, was the son of Casper and Regina (Bauer) Stinn. He was married at Harlan, Iowa on November 25, 1939, to Arlene Marie Sick. Arlene, born in 1920, is the daughter of Frank and Clementine (Meier) Sick. There are eight children in the Stinn family: Carolyn Stinn Nelson (1940); Janice Stinn Stuhr (1942); Lee (1944); Joyce Stinn Miller (1952); Jean Stinn Stahl (1953); William (1955); Michael (1957); Ann Stinn Andersen (1959).

Wilfred was a farmer and he and his family lived on a farm south of Portsmouth. Wilfred died in 1972. His wife, Arlene, continues to make her home on their farm.

Dewayne Stolz Family

Dewayne Stolz and Marie Reinig were married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, on October 15, 1966. Dewayne, son of Merrill and Marie (Erlbacher) Stolz of Defiance, Iowa, was born September 16, 1947. Marie's parents are Martin and Helen (Kaufman) Reinig. She was born October 10, 1948. Dewayne and Marie have one son, Dennis (1968). A daughter, Julie, was born in 1967 and died in infancy.

Dewayne Stolz Family

Dewayne is engaged in farming and the family resides on a farm southeast of Portsmouth. Dennis attends school at Shelby-Tennant Community School.

Gale Alan Tarkington Family

Gale Tarkington is the son of former Portsmouth residents, Vern and Roberta (McKeighan) Tarkington. He was born March 5, 1956. On February 11, 1977, he was married at Harlan, Iowa, to Toni LaSourd. Toni's parents are Dwayne and Opal (Higgins) LaSourd. She was born August 9, 1957. Gale and Toni have one son, Trever, born in 1977.

Gale is a truck driver and works in Persia, Iowa. The family resides in Portsmouth. Gale's grandparents, the George McKeighans, had previously owned the Tarkington home and had lived there for many years.

Raymond Van Slyke

Ray Van Slyke owned and operated the butcher shop and locker plant in Portsmouth for many years. Ray, born July 7, 1904, is the son of the late Frank and Mildred (Brokaw) Van Slyke. He was married at Manilla, Iowa, on August 20, 1934, to Betty Stinn. Betty was born April 3, 1901. She was the daughter of Peter and Mary (Letal) Stinn of Portsmouth, Iowa.

Betty assisted Ray in the operation of the Locker Plant and meat cutting business. She passed away in 1976. Ray is now retired and resides in his home in Portsmouth.

Allan Vonnahme Family

Allan P. Vonnahme and Loretta Foresman were married in Guthrie Center, Iowa, on March 27, 1971. Allan, son of Wayne and Mary Rose (Lammers) Vonnahme, was born January 21, 1951. Loretta is from Guthrie Center and she was born April 15, 1952. Her parents are Marvel and Dorothy (Coe) Foresman. Al and Loretta are the parents of one daughter and one son, Brenda (1971) and Brad (1973).

Al Vonnahme Family

Allan has been a member of the National Guard. He worked for the Milwaukee Railroad until it was shut down and he now works for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. Loretta is the president of St. Mary's Rosary Confraternity for the current year.

Dallas Voge Family

Dallas and Cecelia (Lefeber) Voge were the parents of ten children: Doris Voge Peterson; Nadine Voge Buckley; Donna Voge Davis; Mary Voge Nordby; Don; Kathy Voge Palmer; Judy Voge Soghigian; Robert; Lois; Jim.

Dallas, son of August and Lottie (Crosier) Voge, was born in 1908. Cecelia's parents were Stephen and Christena (Foxhoven) Lefeber. She was born in 1908. Dallas was a lifelong farmer and the family resided on their farm southwest of Portsmouth, Iowa. Dallas is now deceased. His wife continues to make her home on the farm.

Gerald Waltz Family

Gerald Waltz and Janice Pauley were married May 9, 1959 at St. Mary's Church, Panama, Iowa. They were both born and raised at Panama. Gerald, born March 13, 1931, is the son of Leo and Cecilia (Goeser) Waltz. Janice's parents are Leo and Louise (Schmitz) Pauley. She was born September 23, 1939. Gerald and Janice are the parents of two sons and two daughters: Paul (1961); Colleen Waltz Schmitz (1962); Cheryl Waltz Schmitz (1963); Timothy (1964).

Gerald served in the Marine Corps from 1952 to 1954. He first worked at the Panama branch of the State Bank of Portsmouth. He and his wife moved to Portsmouth in 1960 when he transferred to the bank here. He is now executive vice-president of the State Bank of Portsmouth. Jerry was the mayor of Portsmouth for several years and is a St. Mary's Parish trustee.

Gerald Waltz Family

Walter E. Wear Family

Walter E. Wear and his wife, Cecilia, reside on a farm southeast of Portsmouth. Walter Wear and Cecilia Gayman were married at Neola, Iowa, on February 18, 1936. Walter is the son of Frank W. and Nora (Powers) Wear. Cecilia, born January 12, 1910, is the daughter of John and Anna (Von Tersch) Gayman. There are five children in the Walter Wear family: John (1937); Charles (1940); George (1941); Patricia Wear Kozol (1942); Mary Ann Schafer (1945).

Walter is engaged in farming. His farm was originally owned by Richard and Nora Powers, his grandparents. They had purchased the land in 1876.

Ambrose W. Wehr

Ambrose Wehr was born and raised in Portsmouth, Iowa. He is the son of the late John and Henrietta (Baxter) Wehr. Ambrose was born in 1914. He was married at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa, in 1933 to Ruby M. McKeighan, also of Portsmouth. Ruby, born in 1916, is the daughter of the late William and Lucinda (Tague) McKeighan. They are the parents of four children: Geraldine Wehr Ingwersen Bentley (1933); Veryl (1935); William (1940); Larry (1943).

Ambrose served from 1943 to 1945 in the U. S. Army. He spent nineteen months in Europe and worked on the railroad in eight countries. He worked for the C.M. & St. Paul R. R. for twenty-seven years. Ambrose has been disabled since 1961. Ruby is postal clerk at the Portsmouth Post Office, serving in that position since 1957.

Ambrose Wehr Family

Larry J. Weihs, Jr. Family

Larry Weihs, son of Lawrence and Ann (Daeges) Weihs, was born December 4, 1936. On February 15, 1958, he was married to Janice Brown at Portsmouth, Iowa. She is the daughter of Richard and Opal (Daughtery) Brown and is a native of Boone, Iowa. Larry and Jan are the parents of five sons: Jeffery (1958); James (1963); Gregory (1965); Thomas (1967); William (1969).

Larry Weihs Family

Larry is engaged in farming and the family resides on the former Jacob Daeges farm east of Portsmouth. Larry has served on various committees in St. Mary's Parish and in the community.

Lawrence G. Weihs Family

Lawrence G. Weihs, son of Frank and Kunigunda (Engel) Weihs, was born in Cass Township on May 5, 1909. On December 30, 1935, he was united in marriage to Anna Daeges at Portsmouth, Iowa. She is the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Thomas) Daeges. She was born March 30, 1916. She was born and raised in the Portsmouth community. There are three children in the Weihs family: Larry, Jeanette Weihs Leinen and Judith Weihs Funk.

After their marriage, Lawrence and Ann farmed in Lincoln Township for nine years and in the Kirkman area for

Lawrence and Ann Weihs

one year. They then moved to Portsmouth and farmed the Jacob Daeges farm until 1963. Lawrence is now a carpenter and cabinet maker. He and his wife reside on their acreage east of Portsmouth on Highway 44.

John Wendt Family

John Wendt and Elsie Thompson were married September 17, 1919, at Omaha, Nebraska. John, son of Frank and Doris (Kahl) Wendt of Irwin, Iowa, was born November 30, 1892. Elsie, born September 29, 1900, is the daughter of the late Charles and Eva (Grey) Thompson. She is a native of Panama, Iowa. They were the parents of four children: Ruth Wendt Gau (1921); Charles (1922); James (1924); John, Jr. (1931).

John Wendt Family

John served in the U.S. Army in 1918. He was a farmer. John was also a county supervisor for the West District. The family lived at Panama, Iowa, for many years before moving to Portsmouth in the late 1940's. John passed away in 1950 and is buried at Irwin, Iowa. Elsie continues to make her home in Portsmouth.

John F. Wendt Family

John Wendt was born at Panama, Iowa, August 10, 1931. He is the son of John and Elsie (Thompson) Wendt. On February 25, 1952, he was united in marriage to Elaine Thielen, at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Iowa. Elaine's parents were Ray and Adeline (Klein) Thielen. She was

John F. Wendt Family

born April 23, 1932. They are the parents of eight children: Susan Wendt Buck (1952); Lucy Wendt Knauss (1953); John (1955); Karen Wendt Burk (1956); Larry (1957); Peggy Wendt Barta (1961); Beverly Wendt Wade (1962); Traci (1974).

John "Buzz" Wendt has been a lifelong farmer. The family resides on their farm east of Portsmouth.

Francis Wiese Family

Francis Wiese and Shirley Waddell were married in 1953 at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Francis is the son of Frank and Margaret (Haferbier) Wiese. Shirley is from Persia, Iowa, and she is the daughter of Herman and Birdie (Hammond) Waddell. Francis and Shirley are the parents of one daughter and one son, Uzene (1954) and Merlyn (1960).

Francis Wiese Family

Francis is engaged in farming and the family resides on a farm two miles south of Portsmouth.

Laverne David Williams Family

Laverne Williams, born in 1928, is a native of Portsmouth, Iowa. He is the son of the late Clyde and Tena (Plambeck) Williams. On September 13, 1948, at the Lutheran Church, Avoca, Iowa, he was married to Darlene Lyons. Darlene, born in 1929, is the daughter of the late Fred and Anna (Leopold) Lyons of Hancock, Iowa. They are the parents of three sons: Randall (1949), Rick (1952) and Bruce (1954).

Laverne Williams Family

Laverne has been a lifelong farmer. He and his wife reside on their farm northwest of Portsmouth.

Richard John Wilwerding

Richard Wilwerding, born March 11, 1935, is the son of Carl and Irene (Rosman) Wilwerding of Woodbine, Iowa. He served in the U.S. Army in the South Korean Occupation from 1958 to 1959. On January 21, 1968, he was married to Shirley Haley. She is the daughter of Chester and Bessie (Roberts) Haley of Red Oak, Iowa. Shirley was born August 5, 1937, is of Irish descent and came from Corning, Iowa.

Richard and Shirley Wilwerding

Richard and Shirley moved from Earling, Iowa, in 1977 to their farm west of Portsmouth. Shirley is a licensed practical nurse.

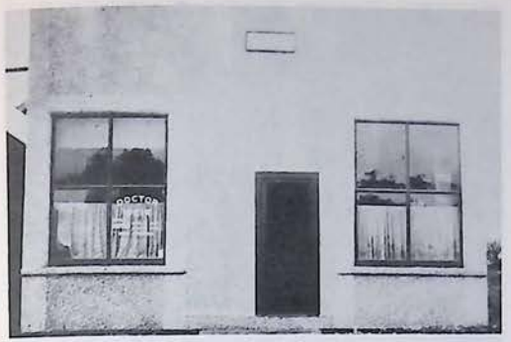
Mary Klein - 5 generations
Lucy Knauss, Elaine Wendt, Adeline Thielen, Mary Klein, Bryan Knauss.

Mary Matilda Daeges - 5 Generations
Jeff Weihs, Mary M. Daeges, Ann Weihs, Brandon Weihs, Larry Weihs.

Corn picking bee for Al Hughes - 1981

Do you remember....

The free outside movies and merchants drawing during the summer on Wednesday and Saturday evenings.



Dr. Weir office building - early 1920's.

Original Herkenrath store building built in 1882 - now the Rocket Bar.

Constructing the Feed Mill building at the Bowles Elevator -1955.

Lower station by Hwy. 44

County and town equipment and storage buildings.

Two-holer on main street intersection - Halloween - 1974.

Portsmouth Float in Harlan Centennial Parade - 1979. Archie Hillyer on float.

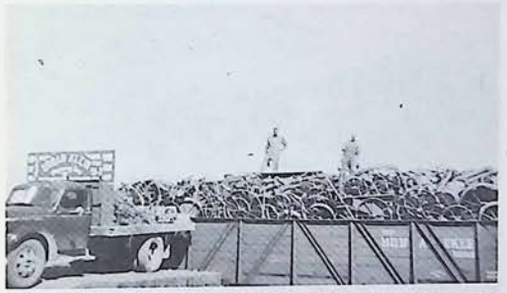
Town of Portsmouth float in the Earling, Iowa Centennial Parade - 1981.

Old Lee Shreeves house west of Portsmouth now owned by Clinton Bothwell.

Tony (Pal) Herkenrath and E.A. Schell with 3.2 beer - 1933.

Charlie Gallagher in his hardware store.

Employees of R.A. Mester Store: Andrew Mester, Mandy Hammerand and Charlie Gallagher. Sitting, R.A. Mester.



Urban Klein and Joe Leinen loading scrap iron collected for the war effort - 1942.

General view of Portsmouth - July 8, 1940

Tony Reinig Farm

Richard Sondag Farm

Russell Haas Farm

Al Reinig Farm

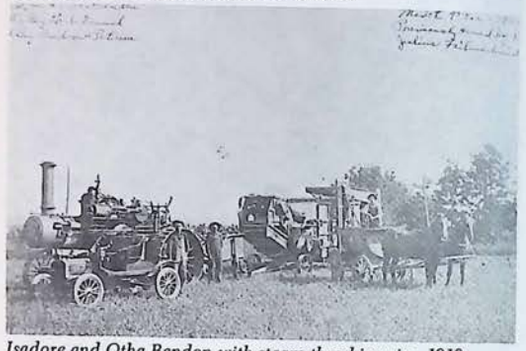
Ken Schneider Farm

Joe Leinen Farm

Ernie Ohlinger Farm

Unloading ear corn at Carl Stein farm.

Sorghum Mill at the Mathias Leinen Farm.



Isadore and Otha Bendon with steam threshing rig - 1910.

Frank Wiese and Corn shelling crew - 1910.

Otha and Isadore Bendon sawing lumber at the Arnold Gau farm.

Running the elevator and unloading corn with horsepower at the Mathias Leinen farm - 1914.

Ernest Schnack and grandson, Gary - 1949.

P.F. Leinen with single row cultivator - 1936.

P.J. and John Ohlinger mowing hay - 1937.

Stacking hay at P.M. Leinen farm. P.M. and Joe Leinen on stack.

M.E. Leinen pitching and P.J. Ohlinger stacking hay.

Making hay at J.W. Daeges farm

Tony Reinig and Bert Leinen in a field of shocked oats on the Tony Reinig farm - 1950.

Baling straw at the Carl Stein farm.

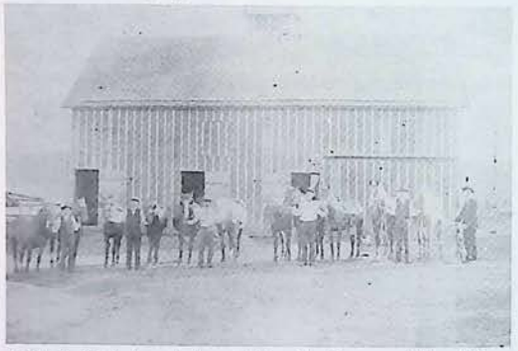
Henry Heller filling tractor with fuel at threshing time.

Dean Hansen cutting silage.

Delmar Mikels round baling hay.

John Ohlinger hauling a round bale.

Alvin Kohl drilling soybeans.



Michael, Paul, August, Joe and Leo Neubauer and Frank Desmond at the Michael Neubauer farm.

Nick, P.M. and M.D. Leinen with stallions at the P.M. Leinen farm.

Bert Hughes with his team, Dave and Molly.

Frank Pursell and his pony

M.D. Leinen and his team

John, Frank and Julius Wiese and August Nuebauer

Lawrence Weihs home - The first Catholic Church east of Portsmouth was built on this ground.

Father Moran and Miss Elias with St. Mary's School pupils

Picture taken in France - 1919. John J. Leinen (3rd Cavalry, Troop G.) on the way home after W.W. I. John is the fourth man in the front row by the second pup tent.

Ralph Kruger greets his mother on arrival home from W.W.I - 1919.

Do you remember....

Quilting party at someone's home.

The hay mow in the barn - jumping in the loose hay.

The country doctor making calls with his team and buggy.

Portsmouth float in homecoming parade for W.W.2 veterans and Iowa Centennial Celebration at Harlan, Iowa - June 18, 1946.

Janet Bruck and Tom Leinen, Portsmouth teenagers were part of a patriotic skit presented at bicentennial program - 1976.

John Ohlinger Digging Potatoes.

Spraying fruit trees at the P.M. Leinen Orchard - 1920.

Fred Stein's Siamese twin calves - 1938

Fox Hunters: Andy Peterson, Leo Ohlinger, Dey Weygint, Lake Anderson and Bert Leinen - 1932.

M.D. Leinen with Siamese twin pigs.

1926 Rat Control Program in Cass Twp. - First in the state.

Fox hunters - 1948. Carl Stein, Harold, Louie and P.F. Leinen, John Ohlinger, Clair (Stick) Hughes, Tony Reinig and Ernie Ohlinger.

The old bridge over the Mosquito Creek on Hwy. 39 (Now Hwy. 44), in September, 1958 after the collapse of one of the piers under the bridge. There was a three to five mile detour for many of the area people until a temporary bridge was built two months later. The collapsed bridge was taken out and a new bridge was constructed during the next two years.

Inspecting Mosquito Creek Bridge on Hwy. 44 - 1981.

Plowing bee for Carl Stein - 1966

Do you remember....
Disease outbreaks - quarantine for contagious diseases.

Laying underground telephone cable - 1981

Dick Langenfeld digging with backhoe

Marvin Kenkel digging basement for new house where Richard Ohlinger lives.

Corn picking bee for Al Hughes - 1981